

GROUP GUIDE

ROOTED WEEK 8 | SHARING MY STORY & WHY THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT

WELCOME & ICEBREAKER (20 MINUTES)

Give everyone some time to settle in- grab snacks & mingle and then kick things off with an icebreaker question. Use your Rooted question cards or browse the icebreaker ideas in the resource folder.

SHARE STORIES (15 MINUTES).

Have the two people you assigned to share their story do so tonight. Give them 3-5 minutes worth of time. They can use the "WEEKLY STORY: Sharing & Listening" card as an outline.

Once one person has shared their story, thank them for sharing and invite the group to speak aloud together this prayer, **"God, thank you for your unfolding story in _____ life."** Repeat this for the next person who shares their story.

Before moving on, ask for two more people to share their story during week 10. You won't share stories week 9 due to the Partnership Class.

Two people for WEEK 10: _____ and _____

INTRODUCE TOPIC & TRANSITION TO SHARING MY STORY EXPERIENCE (10 MINUTES)

Briefly introduce the topic for tonight's discussion (**consider inviting someone to read the introduction paragraph from this week's daily work included below**).

Today we will split our time between discussion and practicing the stories we prepared in our daily work this week.

This week in Rooted, we move from our individual stories to the gathered church. We emphasize that God's work in us and his work in the Church are equally important. We highlight that belonging to a church is a crucial part of our personal faith and our witness to others – inviting them to Jesus and to church.

- What is a dangerous thing you have done? What was it like? What was the fear level when you did it?
- What's scary about sharing your story?
- Who might be your one person to share your story with and invite to be with you at church?



PRACTICE SHARING YOUR STORY (20 minutes).

- In pairs or groups of three, each person will share the **Before** part of their story.
- Then move on to the **Commitment (& After)** part of the story as time permits.

DISCUSSION: Gather the whole group back together and transition into discussion time of the Why the Church Is Important portion of Rooted Week 8 by asking the following questions (20-30 minutes).

- What is the difference between sharing your story and inviting people to church? How are they similar? Why is it necessary to do both?
- What have you learned about the church or about the ceremonies of the church? Did anything surprise you
- Where in your life do you worship in spirit and truth?
- Memory verses: What do these mean to you? Did they affect you in any way this week?

REVIEW NECESSARY LOGISTICS (10 minutes)

- Partnership Class for Week 9 - Date and location: _____
- Instruct your group to complete their Week 9 devotions covering, "Partnership & MVP". The content will prepare everyone for the Partnership Class.

CLOSE IN PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Close your time together in prayer. As you pray, ask God to lead you to those with whom you can share your story and for the boldness to share with confidence and conviction. Share with God your love of him and ask him to grow your love of and commitment to the church.

What is the name of the one person you can invite or pray about how to share your story? Write that name on a notecard and keep it somewhere you will see it everyday as a reminder to pray for them!

