



Sunday September 02, 2018

LET US SOS!

(It's time to share our stories!)

S.O.S

It is a distress signal developed by the German government in 1905 and adapted worldwide & used in ships starting from 1908. There are various theories about what it could mean *Save Our Souls, Save Our Ship*, etc.

Actually S.O.S was chosen because it is easily transmitted as a distress signal (a signal for immediate help) in *Morse Code* – used for telegrams and radio signals - represented by combinations of long and short light or sound signals.

S.O.S. is transmitted as ···— — —···

S.O.S – our acronym for *Share Our Story / Stories*.

There's something powerful about stories – about stories well told!

<A couple of personal experiences of listening to stories>

Real-life Stories (real people, real places, real struggles, real challenges, real victories)

- *Inspire* – fill us with the urge /ability to do something, esp. something creative
- *Motivate* – provide reasons for doing something,
- *Encourage* – give support, confidence or hope
- *Educate* – inform and instruct intellectually
- *Instill moral values*
- *Correct*
- *Warn*

<Chicken soup for the soul, Readers' Digest>

Real-life Stories in the Bible

Real People + Real Encounters with God = Real transformation.

These stories speak to us.

They are testimonies of the people in these stories.

They tell us that God who did this for them will do it again for us!

Here are some testimonies of some real people

1) Abraham

- Genesis 12:1-3 – God's promise to Abram (74 years old)
- Genesis 15 – God reiterates His promise, '*count the stars*'
- Genesis 16 – Ishmael!
- Genesis 17 – Abram-Abraham, Sarai-Sarah (99 years old)
- Genesis 18 – Vs. 14 '*Is anything too hard for the Lord!*'
- Genesis 21 – Isaac!

'Is anything too hard for the Lord?'



2) Joseph

- Genesis 39 - Joseph in Egypt | Potiphar house incident | Imprisoned
- Genesis 40 - Dream interpretation in prison – Baker & Butler
- Genesis 41 - Dream interpretation of Pharaoh Gen 41:16 & asst. to Pharaoh
(vs. 37-46 <30 years old>)
- Genesis 45 - Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers and testifies.

'Hold on to your integrity. Trust God who changes into good what the enemy meant for evil'

3) Joshua

- Joshua 1:5 - *'..as I was with Moses, so I will be with you, I will not leave you nor forsake you'*
- Joshua 1:8 - Book of Law – speak it, meditate on it, do it!
- Joshua 1:9 - *'Be strong... of good courage... don't be afraid... I'm with you wherever you go'*
- Joshua 6 - The fall of Jericho | *'the promise still stands'*

'God's promise still stands!'

4) Gideon

- Judges 6:12 - The angelic encounter & the Word of the Lord
- Judges 6:13 - Gideon's response
- Judges 6:14 - *'Go....Have I not sent you?'*
- Judges 6:27 - Obeyed.. but, in the dark. Feared his father's household.
- Judges 6:36-40 - The sign of the fleece.
- Judges 7 - God's calculation (32000 – 22000 - 9700 = Victory <300>)

'God knows my true potential. His math .. well.. um.. goes beyond my logic '

5) Peter

- Luke 5:3 - Teaching from the boat
- Luke 5:4 - The fishing miracle – 1
- Luke 5:8 - Peter's response to the miracle.
- Luke 22:54-62 - Peter denies and weeps bitterly
- John 21:1-19 - The fishing miracle – 2 & Peter restored.

'Jesus taught me how to fish.. Really! And despite my unfaithfulness, He remains faithful'

6) The Woman at the well

John 4

'Jesus told me all that I ever did. I can't stop talking about Him. Now I know what it means to truly live'

7) Zacchaeus – the tax collector

Luke 19

'In short, I want to say that I've never met anyone like Jesus. I want to be with Him, be like Him'



8) *The Woman caught in adultery*

John 8:1-12

'Jesus did not condemn me. He forgave me instead. He restored my dignity. I can lift my head up again'

The greatest real-life story

The Gospel – John 3:16, 36

The story of redemption – The cross!

What is your story?

Have you met the writer of your story, the artist of your portrait!

Ps 139: 13-18

Eph 2:10

Is your life-story part of His story yet?

The Lord Jesus wants our story to be part of His Story

The *Born again* trail - an exciting journey!

It starts by inviting Jesus into our hearts.

Romans 10:9,10

There is an S.O.S, a distress signal that is coming from the world

Save Our Souls! A cry for salvation!

It's time to Share Our Story with the world!



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday September 02, 2018
Let us SOS!

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *John 4:1-42*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights (It is alright if you cannot cover all the questions. Select a few of these questions for your discussion). We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

A few in the group can take turns to talk about one of the 8 real life-stories referenced above from the Bible and share about what impacted them the most about their lives.

A few in the group can take turns to share about their experience of sharing their salvation testimony, the challenges they faced and how they overcame.

Pray for anyone in your work, home, office, school/college who needs to hear your salvation story and share with them this coming week.



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for any specific needs.

Close by thanking God together.