

Faith's Story Told

As chaplain and head of the CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) team, I often led debriefings. We would go over what happened on a “bad call” and help the crews to process it in a healthy way. We too have times we have positive “debriefings” where we remember and go over the details of our lives. We tell stories of where we have been, what we have done, and what we learned. The best stories include the work of God woven throughout our tales. We get a glimpse of Him here and there, we hear a word, we sense a nudge, we feel a presence, and through it all bring our faith into the light. We saw Jesus calling His apostles aside after a mission for that kind of conversation. Read Luke 10. The 70 who returned were overjoyed that the demons submitted to them. This evidence of faith was exciting to them. Their faith slayed the enemy and they were victorious. We love to go over the tales of victory-- how we won the big game, beat our opponent at chess, or even got the best parking space. Jesus had to remind them that casting out a demon was easy compared to what it took for Him to be able to write their names in heaven. Jesus kept their tales in perspective. Our tales are filled with much faith-power. The disciples on the road to Emmaus ran back seven miles to tell the story of faith. The young Jerusalem church met behind closed doors to pray and go over the stories of the day. Hebrews 11 is a whole chapter of faith recounting the stories of the faithful, and the Old Testament is filled with even more stories. Faith is meant to be talked about. If faith is about the Divine intervening into my world by dipping His hand into my life and touching me or if it is about an Encounter with the Creator, then what a tale to tell! The Epic stories are a part of our culture, as John Eldredge often reminds us. The opening line of **The Ransomed Heart** (my favorite devotional book) quotes Deut.4:9, “Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live.” Let your faith become your story with Jesus as the main character.



Reflection and Discussion



Imagine what it would be like to have a family faith debriefing each night. What might that look like?

Why do we like a good story? Why are these stories often about victories?

Read Luke 24:13-35. What do you think this experience was like?

What is your story of faith? Is Jesus your main character?

Memory Verse: Acts 4:20

“...we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard.”