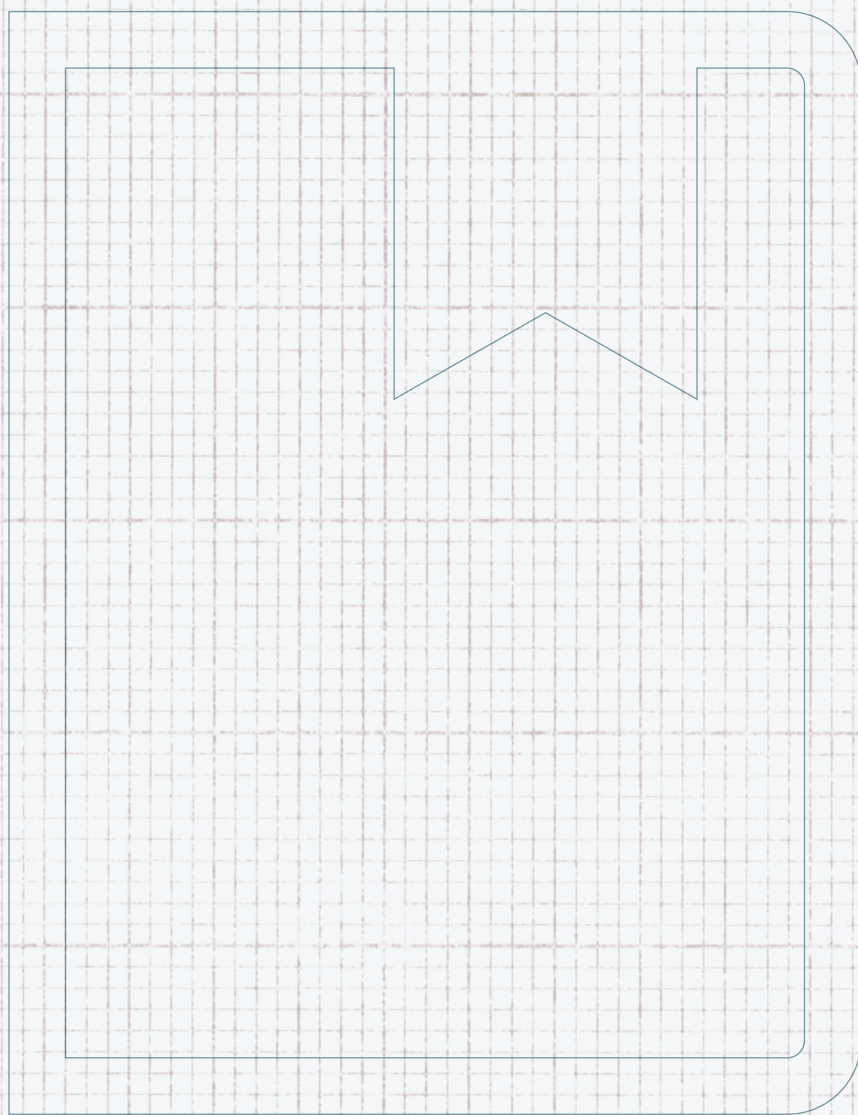


## SMALL GROUP GUIDE





**YOUR STORY MATTERS**



*Thank you for leading a small group through Your Story Matters by Youunique. This brief introduction will help you use this resource to stimulate your group's learning.*

*Each small group session is tied to the videos that participants will watch and exercises they will complete before you get together as a group. Each group session has two parts, which you can lead in either order according to what works best for your group:*

#### **“SEE IT”**

These are five groups of questions for discussion. Each question grouping has a starter question with one or two follow-up questions in parentheses. You don't have to ask every question; use your judgment as to which ones to hit on. These questions are meant to help your group process the work that they have done on their own and to share their breakthrough and results with others.

#### **“BE IT”**

This is a tool or exercise that enables participants to put the lesson into practice in their own lives. It often requires a few minutes for people to work on their own followed by group discussion. The tool or exercise is critical for turning the discussion into a true learning experience.

*(continued)*



Before your group gets started with the first session, take three steps to make sure everyone is ready to go when you get together:

1. Create a Yunique account if you haven't yet. Someone in your church should have sent you the link to create an account. If you have an account already, log in at [lifeyunique.com/login](http://lifeyunique.com/login).
2. On your account dashboard, click "View courses on Thinkific." Select Your Story Matters. Before the first group session, do Course Sessions 1 (The Power of Story) and 2 (Sketch Your Story).
3. Invite your group to create a Yunique account; share with them the same link that was given to you. Also direct them to do the course sessions above before your first meeting together.

May God make breakthrough learning happen in your group!

The Yunique Team



# Group Session 1

Pre-Work: Watch and complete Course Sessions 1 (The Power of Story), 2 (Sketch Your Story)

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### “See It”

*Take some time to introduce yourself to the group and share one book or movie besides the Bible that has had a great impact on your life. Once everyone has introduced themselves, use the following questions to get to know one another better and to think about the power of story in our lives.*

1. What are your favorite three movies? (Why did you choose these three movies?)
2. What three characters from all the movies that you have watched do you identify with most? (Why?)
3. What makes a good story? (What separates the best movies or books that you have watched or read from the other movies you have watched or book that you have read?)
4. What Bible story do you identify with most? (Why?)
5. How would you tell the story of the entire Bible in your own words? (What important part of the story do you think people might leave out?)

# Group Session 1

(Cont'd)

## **SMALL GROUP EXERCISE**

**“Be It” - Surrender (“No Story You Can’t Redeem”)**

### **Explanation**

In course session 2, we listed ten high points and ten hard times and then narrowed them to our Top Ten Hinge Moments. Then we charted them on our LifeLine. Now we’re going to take a few minutes to surrender these moments to God.

### **Instructions**

Surrender your Hinge Moments to God, taking some time to listen to him as he speaks to you. Lean into faith that he is redeeming every part of your story. Listen to the song “No Story You Can’t Redeem” (<https://youtu.be/5hAKbhKbe20>) with your hands open in a posture of surrender. When the song is over, list what you sense God spoke to you during the song.

### **Assignment**

Watch and complete Course Session 3  
(Chapters of Your Story)

# Group Session 2

Pre-Work: Watch and complete Course Session 3  
(Chapters of Your Story)

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

### **“See It”**

1. What were the two most important things that you learned about your story by completing the Life Discovery Grid? (How did what you learned change your overall perspective on your life story?)
2. Which two heroes impacted your story most? (Why?)
3. How did thinking about your heritage affect you? (What did you discover about your heritage that you had not known before or that you had forgotten about? How did discovering or remembering these things change the way you understand your life story?)
4. Which “hand of God” moments changed the trajectory of your story most? (Why?)
5. Who would benefit from hearing your story this week?

*(continued)*



# Group Session 2

(Cont'd)

## **SMALL GROUP EXERCISE**

### **“Be It” - Share Your Story**

#### **Explanation**

One of the most empowering things that we can do both for ourselves and for others is to share our story and listen to the stories of others. Every time we share our story, the things that we have learned about God and ourselves become even more real in our own lives. Every time we listen to the stories of others, we get more insight into our own story.

#### **Instructions**

Take five minutes to share a summary of your life story with the group using the following format:

1. Share your name and the titles of each chapter of your story.
2. Highlight one or two significant events, features, or insights from each chapter.
3. Allow the group to ask questions or give affirmation for one or two minutes.

You may not be able to get through all the stories of your entire group in this session, so if necessary, use the first few minutes of each subsequent small group session to tell your stories until everyone has had the opportunity to share.

#### **Assignment**

Watch and complete Course Sessions 4, (Life Drifts), 5 (Drifting Off Course)

# Group Session 3

Pre-Work: Watch and complete Course Sessions 4 (LifeDrifts), 5 (Drifting Off Course)

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

### **“See It”**

1. What impacted you most from the LifeDrifts teaching? (Why? How do LifeDrifts help you understand how your story has been sabotaged in the past?)
2. Which LifeDrifts do you identify with most? (Why? How have these LifeDrifts played out in your life story?)
3. Did you see LifeDrifts change or stay the same through the chapters of your story? (How does that reveal growth in your life? How does it reveal weakness?)
4. Where in your story do you see hurt that you suffered feed LifeDrifts? (How have your LifeDrifts passed your hurt on to others?)
5. How have fear, guilt, and shame affected your story? (How have you dealt with fear, guilt, and shame in the past? How is the gospel good news for your past?)

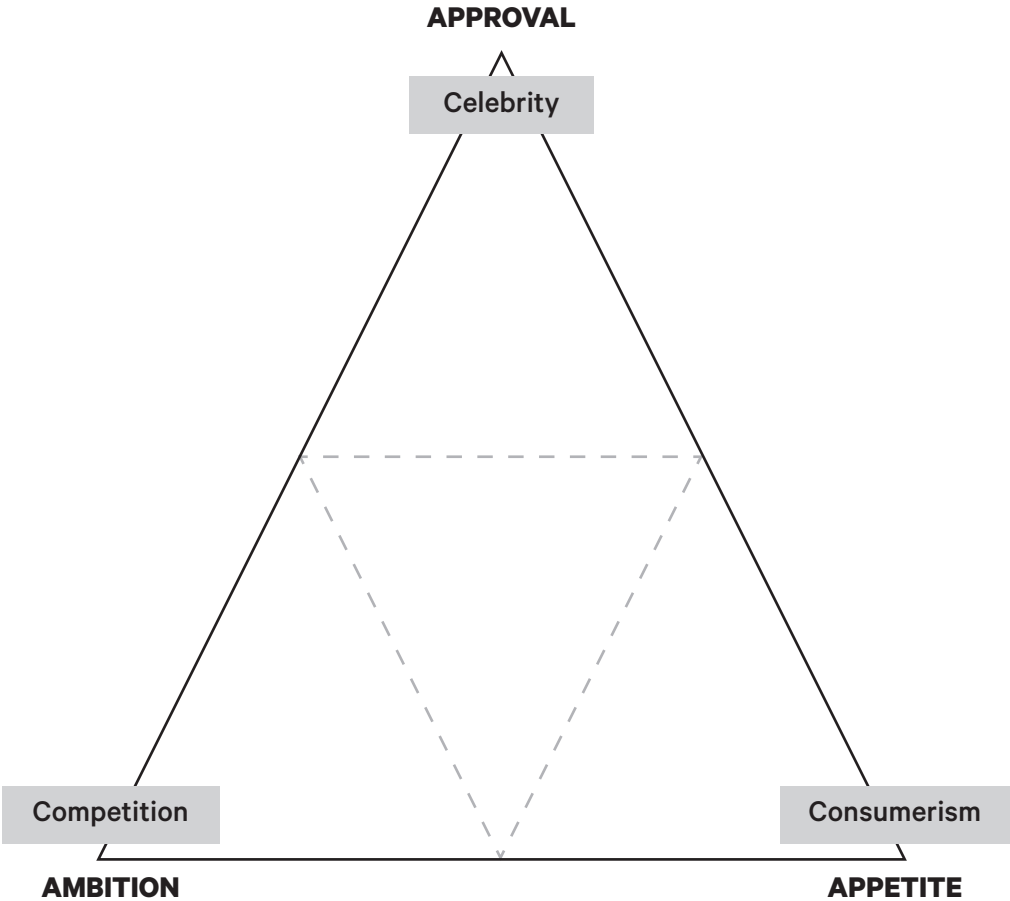
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# Group Session 3

(Cont'd)

## SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

“Be It” - Consumerism, Competition, Celebrity



(continued)



# Group Session 3

(Cont'd)

## Explanation

LifeDrifts don't only appear in individuals—they also play out in society at large. As Mike Breen points out, Appetite, Ambition, and Approval appear in the forms of Consumerism, Competition, and Celebrity in American society.

Consumerism/Appetite: We live in a world of instant gratification. We want something, we get it. We want better, and we want more, without end. Marketers thrive on creating needs we never knew we had and cash in when we feel we must make a purchase.

Competition/Ambition: We love to win, and sometimes we want others to lose. Our world is built on winners and losers, and to quote Will Ferrell's goofy Ricky Bobby character, "If you're not first, you're last." Everything seems to be a competition and if you don't feel like you are keeping up with the Joneses—if you're not bigger and better—then you are being left behind.

Celebrity/Approval: Our fascination with Celebrity has never been higher, and social media promises that anyone can become a celebrity. We easily measure our value by how many online "friends" and followers we have. We would rather be famous than known and the systems of our society reward those who are famous for being famous.

The evil isn't just in us—it's in the system. Even churches reproduce it. The unspoken definition

(continued)

# Group Session 3

(Cont'd)

of a great church is often an organization led by a celebrity pastor that wins the competition for more Christian consumers than other churches in the community. It comes naturally for leaders and attenders alike to build a church on our own brokenness. Yet Celebrity undermines Leadership by making pastors performers. Consumerism undermines Discipleship because consumers don't produce fruit. And Competition undermines Mission because we can't achieve Christ's Great Commission without cooperation.

## Instructions

Discuss the following questions.

1. Where do you encounter Consumerism in your daily life? Competition? Celebrity?
2. Which one do you see the most in your workplace?
3. Which do you see the most in your children's or grandchildren's lives?
4. How do you see them tempting your church? How have you unknowingly played a part in that?
5. How would building our lives on the gospel open our eyes to the LifeDrifts in our world?
6. How would it enable us to resist cooperating with them?

## Assignment

Watch and complete Course Sessions 6 (Life Lies and Life Truths), 7 (Tell Your Story)

# Group Session 4

Pre-Work: Watch and complete Course Sessions 6 (Life Lies and Life Truths), 7 (Tell Your Story)

## **SMALL GROUP EXERCISE**

### **“See It”**

1. How did you define your Life Lies in each chapter of your story? What gospel truths did you arrive at as the answers to these Life Lies? (How does arriving at this gospel truth begin redeeming your story?)
2. How do the gospel truths that you have identified motivate you? (How have you shared these gospel truths with others? Who else in your life needs to hear these truths?)
3. Which character in the Bible do you relate to the most? (How does the story of this character give you hope for your own story?)
4. What is one thing that you have learned about your story by hearing the story of someone else in the group? (How has hearing the stories of others in your group given you hope for your own story?)
5. What did you name the next chapter of your story? (Why? How does naming this chapter create expectation and anticipation for the next season of your life?)

*(continued)*



Group  
Session 4

(Cont'd)

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

“Be It” - Six-Word Title

Explanation

Legend has it that one day Ernest Hemingway was walking down the street when a woman came up to him and challenged him to write a story using only six words. Hemingway accepted the challenge and emerged a litte while later with this six-word story: “For Sale: Baby’s Shoes. Never Worn.” With this six-word story, Hemingway stirred our emotions and stoked our imaginations.

Recently, people have taken this Hemingway challenge to tell their own stories in six words. Many of these stories have been captured in a book called “Not Quite What I Was Planning” (a six-word title). Today we’re going take the Hemingway challenge as well.

Instructions

Today we are going to use the Hemingway Challenge not to tell our stories but instead to title our stories. Take six minutes to come up with a six-word title to your life story. Let these examples get your imagination going.

e.g. If at First You Don’t Succeed  
Delivered into Silence, Destined to Sing  
Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Six-Word Title



[lifeYounique.com/OnCall](http://lifeYounique.com/OnCall)