



Objective, Big Idea & Biblical Focus:

To redefine success and create a Biblical framework for people to quickly assess what season each of their Storylines are currently in, within the great story that God is writing of their life, and press in to meet God in whatever season that is. This reminds us what we are doing best flows out of who we are becoming.

BIG IDEA; Spiritual maturity is not about how well you are doing or feeling; it's about GOING TO GOD despite how you are doing or feeling.

Emphasize this is a gospel-centered lens of looking at their life in how they orient themselves to God as they ask “How Am I?”. Story cycle reminds us redemption is coming. This is an intentional discipleship posture.

How it Works:

Use the Psalm Spirituality teaching to reframe a biblical understanding of success and faithfulness with our lives.

Use Walter Bruegemann’s interpretation of the Psalms— dividing the Psalms up into either Orientation, Disorientation or Reorientation to establish the different realities and seasons of our Storylines and how it is possible to be faithful in each season.

Transition Bruegemann’s language of Orientation, Disorientation and Reorientation to Thriving, Surviving and Reviving to help us assess where we are with each story line.

Demonstrate how it is possible to be thriving in one Storyline and just surviving in another—demonstrating the nuance of being able to describe and evaluate our lives in each area. Everybody wants a great story but not a struggle. Part of any growth story of any human being includes all three of these stages. Explain how collectively this creates a dashboard to see all 4 storylines at once and ask yourself regularly, “How am I?”

Invite the participants to evaluate where each Storyline in their life is currently using the language of Thriving, Surviving and Reviving. Emphasize this is a spiritual practice.

Coaching Tips:

Use your personal life and Storylines to demonstrate the nuance of assessing your life through Storylines. Encourage your group to be as honest as possible in evaluating their Storylines. Emphasize the benefit of this type of dashboard allows them to see all of their life at once while navigating the varying seasons they are in. We can be experiencing death and resurrection in different parts of our life at the same time. Storylines can initiate a more honest conversation with God, ourself and others.



Reference:

Journey 2, pg. 23-25

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Psalms Spirituality: A Biblical Approach to Life Assessment
Thriving, Surviving and Reviving

- The Psalms are a unique part of biblical revelation. All revelation is God speaking to humankind. But only the Psalms show how humankind should talk back to God.
- According to Walter Brueggemann, the best way to categorize the Psalms and to relate them to your life is to see each one as a God- directed moment in one of three life states:

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Psalms Spirituality
Thriving, Surviving and Reviving

- These life states correlate with Scripture's broadest narrative and the individual lives of saints defining life as a gospel-centered, faith-accessed story cycle.
 - Thriving = Goodness at creation = Season of Summer
 - Surviving = Judgement through sin/brokenness = Season of Fall & Winter
 - Reviving = Restoration by Grace = Season of Spring
- The paramount observation is this: Spiritual maturity is not about how well you are doing or feeling, it's about going to God despite how you are doing or feeling.
- Using "Thriving, Reviving and Surviving" as categories of assessment for our Storylines keeps our weekly reflection:
 - Ultimately God - centered, not man - centered.
 - Reminds us of the hope of the gospel, temporally and eternally.
 - Builds an anticipation of the guaranteed and redemptive goodness of God.
 - Nurtures awareness with myself and with God.
 - Accounts for having highs and lows in different areas of life at the same time.
 - Gives permission for the wide range of emotion in life. It's okay not to be okay.

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Storyline Assessment *Reporting*

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