



Through My Eyes | Shawn Johnson | 9.5.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Are you an early bird or a night owl?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Shawn began our new series “Vantage Point” by taking us all back to where his relationship with Jesus started. As he shared, he reminded us the importance of sharing our own stories. These next few weeks we are going to take time to share our story with the group. But before we dive in, take some time to check in with your group by answering these questions.

What’s one word that would describe how you’re feeling today?

What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Read John 4 (The story of the Woman at the well)

This week, Shawn referred back to the Samaritan woman as he was sharing his own story. According to her lifestyle and past, the Samaritan woman didn't belong. She wasn't necessarily wanted either. Shawn felt likened his story to hers in the way that he didn't belong either. Jesus went to the Samaritan woman and met her where she was at just as he did with Shawn and does with us. After the woman's encounter with Jesus, she left and shared the Good News with her entire town. She was transformed by Jesus.

Although sharing your story can be uncomfortable, it is one of the most amazing things we can do as followers of Christ. It brings light to God's faithfulness and deep love that he has for each one of us. Pick two-three people from your group this week and have them answer the following questions.

1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?
2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.
3. How have you changed in the last five years?

MOVE

Read Matthew 4:18-20; 28:19-20

Do you think the disciples knew what Jesus was inviting them into at the time?

The invitation of God is to know him and make him known. Shawn shared with us, that in order to make God known we have to first make our lives about him! When we make our lives about him, we will naturally share our story and what God has done. We find our purpose when we make our lives about knowing God and as we just read, our purpose is to "go and make disciples."

Sharing your story with someone can be difficult and it may not even be on our radar. We know that we are here to “make heaven more crowded” by telling people what God has done in our own lives. Not only is it important to share our own story but it is also important to listen in to other people’s stories. This week let’s pray that God brings an awareness of him and the awareness of someone who desperately needs the Good News of Jesus. We live in a time where we don’t have to look very far to see the brokenness of the world. People are down and out, tired and weary and needing some good news in their life. So, let us go and be the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5) this week.

Whether it is your neighbor, someone at the grocery store register, a conversation at the water cooler at work or your server at your favorite restaurant make it a point this week to intentionally ask someone something about THEM.

Who is one person in your life that you can share your story with this week?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...
-Revelation 12:11*