



STORY

OF THE SOUL

Jesus Film Project®
A Cru Ministry

Testimonials

These words were written on comment cards from actual *Story of the Soul* events.

“It was inspiring, deep-it made me think and realize that I want to change some things in my life. I was very happy I attended.”

“This is a great way to engage post modern culture and worldview—you provided good tools to engage others!”

“Story of the Soul is a beautiful way to unfold the cry of the human heart ...”

“This is the most innovative way to present the hope of Jesus Christ!”

“I was proud to have a friend here!”

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At A Glance

While each human soul is unique, there are some common and universal questions that every soul wrestles with ...

Questions such as,

“Can I really change?”

“Is there more to life?”

“Is there life without regret?”

“Will I ever belong?”

How do we resolve these questions and connect others to the main story—the story of Jesus Christ?

What is *Story of the Soul*?

Story of the Soul (SOTS) is an interactive outreach experience connecting people to a story you'd like to share—the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is shared after considering stories the soul of man has been telling throughout time in film, music, classic literature, pop culture, poetry, artwork, and history. Each SOTS event centers around a universal theme that seeks to answer common questions every human soul wrestles with.

What are the components of SOTS?

Three or four separate, 10-15 minute segments each containing:

A brief description, context, or background of a particular piece of art or media.

The actual presentation of the art (song, film clip, poem, or literature).

Time to discuss the art in small groups of 4-8 people, using strong discussion questions.

Personal testimony and a bridge to the gospel by answering:

What is the longing? How do we tend to fulfill it? What is the wound? How do we tend to heal it?

What is missing from how the longing or wound is usually handled? How can Jesus heal or satisfy it?

What does the gospel have to say about this story? How can we tell this story of the soul better?

Comment cards for feedback and follow-up.

Where are the SOTS events hosted?

In a popular, local venue (such as a coffee shop) with: great food, good lighting, a comfortable atmosphere, round tables and chairs to promote small group discussion, and media capabilities (screen, sound system, Wi-Fi).

Every SOUL has a STORY ...

Vision

Use STORY to engage the SOUL ...

The disciples came up and asked [Jesus], “Why do you tell stories?” ... He replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. **That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.** In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it” (Matthew 13:10, 13, MSG).

God, Himself, connects with humanity through various creative means: songs, hyperbole, poetry, parables, and creation. He enters our world and uses surprising things to get our attention and engage our hearts.

STORY of the SOUL connects with those looking for the STORY ...

Have you ever had an emotional response to a movie, a poem, a song on the radio, or to a piece of artwork? Most would agree that art can often evoke strong feelings and deep emotions in the human soul.

Like Jesus,

- *Story of the Soul* strives to create readiness, to nudge people toward receptive insight.
- *Story of the Soul* uses stories from classic and popular media and asks thought-provoking questions to connect people to the ultimate story of Jesus.
- *Story of the Soul* is also an evangelistic outreach that includes a personal testimony relating to the theme, a gospel presentation, an invitation to respond, and potential for follow-up.

The SOUL asks:

Is there life without regret?

Script



Introduction

Is a life without regret possible?

There are things about my past that I cannot change. Past decisions and actions often have lasting consequences—positive or negative—for myself and others. I long to live a life truly forgiven and forgiving others—without shame and guilt for poor choices. No regrets. Is this possible? How do I live a life without regret?

Welcome to *Story of the Soul*.

I invite you to join a group, relax, and get ready to discuss compelling stories.

We all like a good story. Good stories compel us—they seem to hold power over us—so we think about them a lot and love to talk about them with our friends.

In *Story of the Soul*, we use art, film, music, classic literature, and poetry to explore different stories the soul of mankind tells. In this particular *Story of the Soul*, we will only be viewing short films.

The global popularity of art or media, and even pop culture, shows that the soul is trying to say something meaningful about life—usually about common longings and wounds. The artist has experienced something profound. They desperately want to understand it and express it.

Stories, if told well, can transcend culture, race, gender, and time. And we love to read, view, watch, or listen again and again, because we feel a profound connection.

Here's how this *Story of the Soul* works:

- 1) Someone will share a short film with us.
- 2) Then we'll take some time to interact with those in our group about what we've seen, felt, and heard in each of the films.
- 3) After we've observed and interacted, we will wrap things up, sharing an opinion about the story.

We're glad you've joined us. Enjoy the experience.

The SOUL asks:

Is there life without regret?

Script cont.

Media #1: *Ctrl Z*

In our first piece of media, *Ctrl Z*, an office loner, Stuart, takes full advantage of a computer malfunction to magically undo a lifetime of regrets. You may recognize a few faces in the film. Zachary Levi has starred as the title character in the T.V. spy drama, *Chuck*, as the voice of Flynn Rider in Disney's *Tangled*, and more recently as DC Comics' superhero, *Shazam!* In 2016, he won a Tony award for Best Performance as a Leading Actor for his role in the Broadway musical, *She Loves Me*.

Tony Hale is an award-winning actor best known for his role as Buster Bluth in *Arrested Development*, and as Gary Walsh in *Veep*. He has been nominated six times for an Emmy award and has won two Emmys for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for his role in *Veep*.

(Watch *Ctrl Z*) - approximately 6 minutes

For the next few minutes, we are going to participate in our group discussions. Each table has a discussion leader who will help guide your conversation. We likely won't have time for everyone to answer every question, so each person may want to choose a question to answer. Please feel free to share as much or as little as you would like, keeping in mind there are others who will want to share.

Discussion questions:

In the film, Stuart asks, "What if you could start over at any point in your life? Redo everything? How far back would you go?"

- How would you respond if you could get a second chance—get that "redo"? How would it change who you are?
- What motivates people to want to "redo" things in life?

Media #2: *Uninvited Guests*

Most people probably have something in their past that haunts them. In our next film, *Uninvited Guests*, our main character, Phil, is haunted by people from his past. The mistakes, foolish choices, and tragedies of his past are not about to let him get away with it.

(Watch *Uninvited Guests*) - approximately 4 minutes

Discussion Questions:

In the film, Phil says, "Look at my life! How am I supposed to move on with all of this, all the time?"

- What advice or next steps would you encourage him to take?
- What if, like Phil, someone from your past, that you've hurt or disappointed, were suddenly in the same room as you and you were forced to interact with him/her? How would you respond?
- In a positive or negative way, who from your past would be the most surprised at your life now?
- Anxiety from past decisions creates internal conversations and pain. Why?



The SOUL asks:

Is there life without regret?

Script cont.

Media #3: A Man By the Name of Frederick Pennyhouse

In our last film, a man by the name of Frederick Pennyhouse has lived in a house on the ocean for many years by himself. He likes the world he has created but realizes he lacks something that he craves.

(Watch *A Man By the Name of Frederick Pennyhouse*) – approximately 7 minutes

Discussion Questions:

- What would cause you to isolate yourself from your family or friends?
- What keeps you going and gives you hope when others disappoint you or when you disappoint others?
- What is something that you regret? What would be your “message in a bottle”?

Transition to the Gospel

We all make mistakes and oftentimes, like Stuart, we wish we had a Ctrl Z button to push in order to redo past poor or unwise decisions. Sometimes, like Phil in *Uninvited Guests*, we replay those decisions over and over in our minds and have a hard time forgiving ourselves and others. Some of us, like Frederick Pennyhouse, regret decisions that we’ve made to the point that we isolate ourselves from others or live in shame and guilt.

It seems like the soul is asking, “Is a life without regret possible? There are things about my past that I cannot change. Past decisions and actions often have lasting consequences—positive or negative—on myself and others. I long to live a life truly forgiven and forgiving others—without shame and guilt for poor choices. No regrets. Is this possible? How do I live a life without regret?”

The famous inventor of the first telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, once said, “When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” Perhaps we all need help seeing the opened door.

The SOUL asks:

Is there life without regret?

Script cont.

Personal Testimony

Gospel Presentation

The Bible has some things to say about regret as well. God, through the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, urges us to “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:18-19, NIV). And the apostle Paul proclaims in the New Testament, “One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14, NIV).

God promises us that He is “doing a new thing” through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Life without regret really is possible, but only by trusting that Jesus’ death on the cross and His miraculous resurrection from the dead paid for all of our past mistakes or poor choices.

This doesn’t guarantee that we will not experience any negative consequences from our past mistakes, but by trusting in Jesus, God promises to forgive all of our mistakes, past, present, and future, “as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions [mistakes] from us” (Psalm 103:12, ESV). He even promises to take our painful and difficult experiences and use them for good. “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28, ESV).

The Bible also tells us that the only way that we can pay for our mistakes, or “make things right with God,” is through death: “For the wages [payment] of sin is death” (Romans 6:23, ESV). That’s the wonderful truth of Jesus’ death and resurrection; He paid it for us ... in place of us. And His resurrection brings us new life and eternal life with God. “The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23, ESV).

Trusting in Jesus involves telling God, usually through prayer, that you are sorry for poor choices and past mistakes that you’ve made and that you believe and trust that Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection fully paid for those mistakes. This is not a magical prayer, it’s just a way of expressing your faith, or trust, in the truth of God’s Word and allowing God to take control of your life. I’m going to pray right now; feel free to pray along silently:

“Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. I’m sorry for going my own way. Please forgive me for all of my poor choices and mistakes, past, present, and future. Thank You for dying on the cross to pay the price for my mistakes. I agree to turn from my old ways and follow You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

The soul asks, “Is a life without regret possible?” The simple answer is “Yes.” Because God does not keep a record of our past mistakes, but completely forgives us, we can live with hope in Jesus’ love and forgiveness. However, because we live in a broken world, we may still experience regret from time to time; but because of Jesus, we do not have to let it dominate our lives, nor do we have to live with guilt and shame.



The SOUL asks:

Is there life without regret?

Script cont.

Closing

Thanks for letting me share today. The team that helped organize this would love to hear your thoughts about *Story of the Soul*. We've provided a comment card; please take a couple minutes to fill it out. We'd really appreciate your feedback.

If you'd like to talk more with someone about anything that was shared today, let us know. And if you've made a decision to put your trust in Jesus today, we'd also love to know. You can indicate that by simply putting a circle around your name. Go ahead and take a few moments to fill those out. You can fold them up and just leave them at your spot when you're done.

We hope that *Story of the Soul* has provided you some food for thought and has given you an opportunity to join others in meaningful conversation about some of life's most compelling questions. As we close this *Story of the Soul* experience today, go ahead and complete your comment card if you're still working on it.

We are going to close with one more short film entitled, *Delight*. In the film, a pastry chef meticulously crafts a beautiful, elegant cake and presents it to his little girl.

(Watch *Delight*) - approximately 1:20 minutes

The pastry chef's loving response to his daughter is a powerful illustration of God's love for us, its power to overcome our mistakes and failures, and its power to live a life without regret.

Thanks for coming—stick around for more food, music and conversation.

The SOUL is saying: *I long for more*

Script



Introduction

It seems like the soul is saying, I long for more. I am not satisfied with life the way it is. Will it get better? Will I be satisfied when I get the thing that I'm most longing for, or will I just fixate on something else? Will I always find life underwhelming? I long for more.

Welcome to *Story of the Soul*.

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The SOUL is saying: *I long for more*

Script cont.

Media #1: *Flow*

In our first piece of media, *Flow*, two friends make an unconventional choice in regard to their water use.

([Watch Flow](#)) - approximately 4 minutes

For the next few minutes, we are going to participate in our group discussions. Each table has a discussion leader who will help guide your conversation. We likely won't have time for everyone to answer every question, so each person may want to choose a question to answer. Please feel free to share as much or as little as you would like, keeping in mind there are others who will want to share.

Discussion Questions:

These two men do what we would consider unthinkable: They use an inferior water source despite having a much better water source in the next room.

- Agree/Disagree: People often settle for less than what they really need or want. If so, why?
- Can you think of any examples of people settling for less when something better was available? If so, why do you think they didn't pursue the better alternative?
- If you feel comfortable sharing, recount a time when you drank "toilet water" instead of "fresh water."

Media #2: *Doll Face*

In our second piece of media, *Doll Face*, we are introduced to a robot who finds herself entranced by an image, which leads to an unfortunate obsession.

([Watch Doll Face](#)) - approximately 4 minutes

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think the robot is really longing for?
- In what ways can you relate to the robot?
- What would your life look and feel like if what you longed for became a reality?
- Share examples in your own life when you've longed for something that proved to be destructive.

The SOUL is saying: *I long for more*

Script cont.

Media #3: *A Man By the Name of Frederick Pennyhouse*

In our last film, a man by the name of Frederick Pennyhouse has lived by himself in a house on the ocean for many years. He likes the world he has created but realizes he lacks something that he craves.

(Watch *A Man By the Name of Frederick Pennyhouse*) – approximately 7 minutes

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Frederick Pennyhouse has chosen to live in the middle of the ocean with friends made of household items?
- Share a time in your life when you've worked really hard to make your life just the way you wanted, only to find that something was missing.
- If you had a chance to talk to someone experiencing a longing for something else—something more—what would you say to them?
- Frederick Pennyhouse longs for relational connection. What is something you long for?

Transition to the Gospel

I imagine that these films resonated with many of us because, the fact of the matter is, complete contentment with our lives is rare. We have longings. And we should have longings, because not all is right with the world. To be without unfulfilled longings in this world is to be like the friends in *Flow*, completely satisfied with “toilet water.” We should long for something better. Some of us may relate to the robot in *Doll Face* who longs for something unattainable and destructive. And I imagine that all of us can relate to Frederick Pennyhouse, who longs for a good thing that is lacking in his life.

The world is a broken place; we often find longings unfulfilled, or fulfilled in twisted ways that actually bring us harm. And we are broken people; we sometimes long for the wrong things, or fail to long for the right things, and sometimes, we even long for the right things in the wrong way.

It seems as if the soul is saying, “I long for more. I am not satisfied with life the way it is. Will it get better? Will I be satisfied when I get the thing that I’m most longing for, or will I just fixate on something else? Will I always find life underwhelming? I long for more.”

Personal Testimony

The SOUL is saying: *I long for more*

Script cont.

Gospel Presentation

In one of the New Testament's most well-known prayers, Jesus teaches His followers to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10, ESV).

What does it mean for God's kingdom to come on earth? It means that the earth would come to reflect God's own beauty and values—His longings for the world. That is the ultimate hope of the Christian faith. In the Bible, God's kingdom is one in which humanity is at peace with God and at peace with one another; it is a kingdom characterized by love, peace, and joy, and by what is good, beautiful, and true. God's kingdom reflects God's longings for the world. But I imagine they reflect many of our longings for the world, too.

C.S. Lewis, the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, wrote: "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."

The world in which God's kingdom has come is the world that we instinctively long for. It is what we were made for. But this doesn't sound like the world as we know it, does it? The world as we know it is broken, and the people within the world, including all of us, are broken too. We are all victims of this brokenness, but we are also perpetrators of it. We have rebelled against God's good plans for the world just like all who have come before us. We seek the fulfillment of our own interests over the interests of others, causing disharmony and disunity. And when you have a planet full of people living their lives this way, the world as we know it is what you get.

Even though we long for our lives in this world to be different, we are part of the reason that this world cannot meet all of our longings. But the good news that Jesus proclaimed is that, while our longings may only find partial fulfillment in this life, we can long with hope that one day things will be different. The Bible promises a world in which "[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things [will be] gone forever" (Revelation 21:4, NLT).

In Jesus, God came to make a way for everything to be made right. In His life, He showed us what it looks like to live a life of wisdom and love, as God intended. In His death, He accomplished the forgiveness of sins. And in His resurrection, He defeated sin and death in order that the world might be remade into the place that we long for it to be. And Jesus has an invitation for us: forgiveness, a renewed relationship with God, and membership in His kingdom. It is a gift He offers to all that we need only receive with empty hands.

By accepting Jesus' invitation, we can experience glimpses of God's beautiful kingdom and the fulfilling lives He intends for us. And while some longings may continue to feel unresolved, we can look forward with hope to the day when this kingdom is fully arrived, when we will inhabit the world we were made for, and when our deepest longings find complete fulfillment in Jesus and His kingdom.

I'd like to close our time by giving anyone who desires an opportunity to respond to that invitation. If this is something you'd like to do, feel free to pray along with me silently.

The SOUL is saying: *I long for more*

Script cont.

"I have tried to satisfy my heart's longings apart from You, and I have run away from the life that You made me for. Please forgive me. Thank You, Jesus, for loving us so much that You gave Your life to extend an invitation of forgiveness and renewed relationship with You. Teach my heart to long for what You long for, and give me eyes to see the ways that my longings are fulfilled in You. May Your kingdom come, and Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen."

Closing

Thanks for letting me share today. The team that helped organize this would love to hear your thoughts about *Story of the Soul*. We've provided a comment card; please take a couple minutes to fill it out. We'd really appreciate your feedback.

If you'd like to talk more with someone about anything that was shared today, let us know. And if you've made a decision to put your trust in Jesus today, we'd also love to know. You can indicate that by simply putting a circle around your name. Go ahead and take a few moments to fill those out. You can fold them up and just leave them at your spot when you're done.

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Thanks for coming—stick around for more food, music and conversation.

Creating A New Script

Create A Story of The Soul Script

- You are the facilitator to guide discussion and oversee scriptwriting and event presentation.
- Review the *Story of the Soul* Vision and At-a-Glance to capture the essence of the outreach and use that to cast vision for your team when you meet.
- In your meeting, schedule a time to pray for your event.
- Appoint a note taker to keep information visible during the creation process.
- Use the SOTS Creative Process to produce the script. Have several copies printed for your team to use during your script brainstorming time. Make sure to adhere to copyright laws.*
- Block off time for a whole day or if you need to do it over a couple days, have at least 3-5 hours blocked off during those days.
- Send an email before your first meeting to your team with questions for them to work through and have ready for when you meet together.

Suggested Email:

Please come having thought through these questions:

What are some common wounds and longings people experience (a simple list with a brief descriptor of that wound or longing)? Or list a few topics that others would quickly connect with.

What film clips/films, poems, music/songs, paintings, stories, or historical events express that wound or longing well in your opinion? Make a list and be ready to explain.

Come ready to briefly share two or three of your favorite pieces of art—something that moves you—from either a scene from a film, a song with great lyrics, poem, scene from classic literature, or painting.

NOTE: It may not be possible for everyone to share everything, but these two questions will get our creativity flowing and allow us to connect as a team.

Be aware of copyright laws and obtain necessary permission before showing any form of media in a public setting.

*COPYRIGHT LAW REQUIRES that you (1) legally purchase any copy of media that you want to use, and (2) have permission from the copyright owner or license holder before showing the media in a public setting. Fortunately, the "Church Video License" has made it easy and affordable to obtain a license to show a very wide variety of video content at your pre approved event. Visit us.cvli.com to find out how to get a license to show content at your event. A discount is available for Cru® staff; for more information, see <https://staffweb.cru.org/discounts/services/cvli.html>

Creating A New Script *cont.*

Script Brainstorming Day:

Each step below is a suggested guide and a great place to start, but freedom and flexibility are key in making this outreach relevant and contextualized to your specific target audience.

DISCOVER the Story

1. LIST: Using the SOTS Creative Process, have everyone in the group:

Quickly share two topics that the audience would readily connect with
Quickly share two personal favorites from the following list:

- Films, Song Lyrics/Songwriters
- Classic Literature
- Classic Poetry
- Artwork
- Other Sources (famous historical pieces; intriguing stories; idioms/common sayings; current events; captivating television commercials, news or other programs)

A NOTE ON ART AND MEDIA SELECTIONS:

Use art and media that is honorable to the Lord and acceptable to everyone. Using questionable material takes the focus off the theme, and onto the material itself. Keep a healthy and holy tension between relevance and morality. In order to avoid copyright infringement, make sure to acquire any form of media lawfully and obtain permission before showing in a public setting. (See page 15)

2. DISCUSS - Have a brief discussion over the following questions:

Why do you so highly regard what you shared?
Does it reveal a longing or a wound?
What does it reveal about the soul of mankind?

The KEY thought: Come up with one simple emotional thought regarding what the soul is saying through the art you have been discussing. This thought will be what the whole program is built around.

EXAMPLE - The soul asks: Is a life without regret possible? There are things about my past that I cannot change. Past decisions and actions oftentimes have lasting consequences—positive or negative—on myself and others. I long to live a life truly forgiven and forgiving others—without shame and guilt for poor choices. No regrets. Is this possible? How do I live a life without regret?

3. RANK and VOTE:

From the media and art pieces that were shared during the meeting, everyone gets to vote for their top four. Give more points to the higher rated numbers. (Number one gets four points, number two gets three points, etc). In considering the pieces with the most points, are there any common themes that you could design a SOTS script around? If you don't have three pieces that work well together but have two, use those two but try to find one more piece that you can add.

Creating A New Script *cont.*

DESIGN the Story

PLAN and WRITE:

- **Design three, separate, 10-15 minute segments.**
- **Each segment should include:**
 - A brief introduction of the art or media (1-2 minutes)
 - Presentation of the art/media (3-5 minutes)
 - Quality discussion questions (7-10 minutes)
 - Open-ended questions that encourage discussion
 - Questions that relate to the storyline or theme
 - Limited to three or four (You likely won't have time for everyone to answer every question and may want to suggest everyone choose one question to answer.)
- **Build a bridge to the gospel:**
 - Answer the following:
 - What is the longing? How do we tend to fulfill it apart from Christ?
 - What is the wound? How do we tend to heal it?
 - What is missing from how the longing or wound is usually handled?
 - As Christians, how can we tell this *Story of the Soul* better?
- **Relate the storyline or theme to the gospel.**
 - Be brief, complete, and relevant to the storyline or theme.
- **Personal testimony**
 - See Share your Story, page 21. To see an example, see "Is there life without regret?" script.

ASSIGN the Story

Sometimes you won't get through everything in one sitting. In that case, assign roles and responsibilities and a date to have them done by.

Examples of roles and responsibilities:

- Who is the emcee?
- Who is sharing his/her testimony?
- Who is in charge of reserving the space where this event is to be held?
- Who is in charge of technology?
- Who is in charge of creating a way to present the material visually?
- Have some way to view the media and project the discussion questions (Google Slides, PowerPoint, etc.).
- Who is writing more about introducing the different pieces of art and media?

Each presenter and the emcee typically writes his/her part of the program. Usually, there are three presenters—one for each media or art, but feel free to use your own creativity.

Collect the parts from each presenter and emcee to make one script. Hold meetings as needed to make sure your team is on the same page to finalize the script and to plan the actual event.

Creative Design Process

DISCOVER: Topic Ideas

What are some common wounds/longings people experience?

What stories does the soul of mankind tell over and over?

What one sentence explains this *Story of the Soul*?

Creative Design Process cont.

TOPIC	FILM: What movies (3-5 minute clips) tell this story?	MUSIC: What songs/music videos tell this story?	OTHER MEDIA: What poems, literature, art, current events, historical events, or other media tell this story?	RANK

Share Your Story

Share Your Story (Personal Testimony)

The Personal Testimony section of SOTS is key in connecting the theme(s) of the media shared to the gospel presentation. While the media and discussion questions help to evoke emotion and get people talking about the theme, the testimony will bring a personal element that will help the audience examine their hearts in light of their own personal stories, and prayerfully prepare them to hear and respond to the gospel.

How to Write a Personal Testimony:

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom and words as you think through your story.

2. Start with the SOTS theme (see worksheet below):

- How does your story relate to the theme?
- Was there a specific event(s) in your life that emphasizes the theme?
- What part did the Lord play in the event(s)?

3. In light of your answers to the above questions, focus on these three aspects:

A. What was your life like before you became a follower of Jesus?

You want to “paint a picture” of what your life was like before you began walking with Christ. Share only the details that relate to the SOTS theme, and give enough details to show your need for Christ. If you cannot remember a “before Christ” time or don’t think you have a dynamic story, think about what your life was like before you started walking with the Lord.

B. How and when did you become a follower of Jesus?

Focus on the details of the how and when, but more importantly, give a clear account demonstrating how you came to Christ, making sure to communicate how anyone can become a Christian.

C. How has Jesus impacted your life after becoming a Christian?

Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to the theme. Emphasize changes in your character, attitude, and perspective, not just changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians—and life is far from perfect—but what makes it different for you now?

4. Write it down (see worksheet below).

5. Avoid “Christian-ese”; words like “saved,” “repent,” “righteousness,” “justified,” etc. can cause confusion or misunderstanding. If using the word, “sin,” make sure to define it clearly.

6. Keep it to 3-5 minutes long.

7. Practice presenting your testimony.

Share Your Story cont.

Share Your Story Worksheet

What is the SOTS theme you are preparing for?

How does your story relate to the theme?

Was there a specific event(s) in your life that emphasizes the theme?

What part did the Lord play in the event(s)?

What was your life like before you became a follower of Jesus?

How and when did you become a follower of Jesus?

How has Jesus impacted your life after becoming a Christian?



Thank you for joining us.

What did you enjoy about *Story of the Soul*?

What was most impactful?

If anything, what would you change about *Story of the Soul*?

I would like to talk more with someone about what was shared today.

Yes Not interested Maybe

Name: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for joining us.

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I would like to talk more with someone about what was shared today.

Yes Not interested Maybe

Name: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Host a Virtual Story of the Soul Event

Start Here:

Hosting a *Story of the Soul* (SOTS) event virtually works much the same way as a live event. There are, however, some specifics to take into consideration. Before continuing, be sure to download and read the [SOTS pdf](#) to understand the “Vision” behind SOTS, the “At a Glance,” and “Creating a New Script” pages. You may, instead, choose a pre-written script for your outreach, which can also be located in the same pdf download. **Once you have your script**, you are ready to prepare for your virtual SOTS event.

Hosting for ONE small group:

For smaller gatherings, one discussion group may be more ideal than breaking into smaller groups. The principles for the rest of the SOTS event are the same as if you had multiple groups.

Hosting for TEN or more people:

Hosting a larger outreach involves more technical details, so you will need a small team to help run your virtual event. Consider assigning the following roles:

1. Tech Person:

- In charge of digital and tech-related responsibilities
- Creates and sends out the Zoom invitation for the event
 - *Note: If possible, do not make it password required
- Moderates participants and breakout rooms for discussion, audio, etc.
- Should NOT be a group facilitator in order to focus solely on the technical aspects

2. Emcee:

- Leads introductions of presenters and segments
- Transitions in and out of small group discussions

3. Presenter(s):

- Three to four presenters for each art or media presentation, one for gospel presentation, and one for personal testimony (or one person could do both gospel and testimony)
- In charge of showing the art or media, (sharing their screen, audio etc.)
- Ensure high-quality presentation, good Wi-Fi or ethernet connection

Host a Virtual Story of the Soul Event cont.

* **Security NOTE:** If in a closed country, do not share the screen until you have the media up, so the audience cannot see the website it is shown from.

4. Facilitator:

- Facilitate discussion in breakout groups (approximately one facilitator per six to eight attendees); [facilitator discussion guide](#)

5. Chat Manager:

- Answers questions
- Posts necessary information in the chat feature

6. Follow-Up Coordinator:

- Make certain participants' contact info is sent to the correct person for follow-up

Event Pre-Check:

1. Doublecheck computer, Zoom information, etc. Turn off Wi-Fi on all other devices to maximize connection.
2. Make sure there is good sound quality, Wi-Fi, lighting, and even a background that is inviting and not too distracting. An ethernet cable is best to avoid any lag or crash. Establish a quiet place, with little to no interruptions.
3. Have selected media already downloaded and available to share. Choose the highest quality available, however, lower quality may load better with Wi-Fi.
4. Establish a way to organize breakout room assignments: according to campus, region, etc.
5. Decide how long each discussion group will be and consider using a countdown clock or a one-minute warning (Tech Person will post this).
6. Create an "ambiance" using slides and background music for participants as they join the event (about 5-10 minutes worth, or on a loop). Consider a slide with instructions for participants to mute themselves, change their Zoom name, or add information to their name for breakout room organization, and to grab a snack or drink before the event starts.

Host a Virtual Story of the Soul Event cont.

7. Create an online survey or questionnaire for participants to fill out at the end of the event. Consider these follow-up questions:
 - Tell us about your experience at *Story of the Soul* or what you thought about *Story of the Soul*.
 - Tell us about your experience if you prayed that prayer for the first time.
 - Please leave your contact information (name, email, phone, etc.).

* Consider giving a door-prize drawing for filling out the survey or questionnaire

8. One week before the event, have at least one practice run through with all Facilitators, Tech Person, Emcee and Presenters. Practice switching between screens, playing/showing any media, and going in and out of breakout rooms. Two run-throughs are highly suggested.

Virtual SOTS Event:

1. Meet as an event team on Zoom 20-30 minutes prior to the event to pray and discuss any last-minute changes or instructions.

2. Start the “ambiance” a few minutes before the event start time—before participants start to join.
 - *Avoid a blank, silent screen while waiting!

3. When it is time to start, Emcee welcomes everyone to officially start the event. Remind participants to keep their mics muted until the breakout room discussions.
 - ***Tech Person and/or Chat Manager:** make sure to post the discussion questions in the Zoom chat as well as on the main computer screen.

 - ****From here on out,** follow the general SOTS event [guidelines](#).

4. The Tech Person and/or Chat Manager will put a link to a follow-up survey/questionnaire in the group chat on Zoom for participants to fill out at the end of the event. The Emcee will encourage participants to click the link to fill them out.



Facilitator Guide

(To be given to Facilitators before SOTS event)

Facilitator's Role:

The Facilitator is essential in making *Story of the Soul* (SOTS) a meaningful experience. These groups create the space for people to invite us to journey with them in their story and how they personally resonate with the theme. As a facilitator in the discussion, you can set this tone by encouraging people to talk with each other instead of looking to you for answers. Make sure people feel like they are part of a conversation, not attending your sharing time. The facilitator should be the person who talks the least, *guiding* the conversation, not *having* the conversation. Throughout the event, there will be 3 scheduled times for breakout discussion groups, after each media presentation.

Best Practices:

1. As you start your first discussion, make sure you welcome everyone who joins and let them know that you are genuinely glad they are there. Next, invite people to introduce themselves briefly. Don't delay! We typically only have about 7-8 minutes before the next media is presented.
2. Transition into your scripted discussion questions. The focus isn't on answering all of the questions—you won't have enough time! Rather, in the first discussion, value getting people talking and engaging with the media. It's usually a good practice to pick one or two questions ahead of time so that you're not spending time doing that during the discussion. After you've asked a question, give your group time to process the question, maybe even up to 30 seconds.
3. It's usually a good idea not to put people on the spot so they feel free to share as much or as little as they'd like. However, to draw people in, consider the question, "Would anyone else like to share before I ask the next question?"
4. You are the Facilitator but do not forget to share some of your journey with the group and your ups and downs along the way. Don't try to impress them with your spirituality or knowledge of theology. Just be authentic. Also, listen. Listen to their story. Empathize with their experiences. Honor what God honors. And lastly, in all circumstances, do not argue with anyone.

Details to Communicate to Facilitators:

What is the theme for this particular event?

What are the scripted discussion questions?

Where do I need to be and when?