

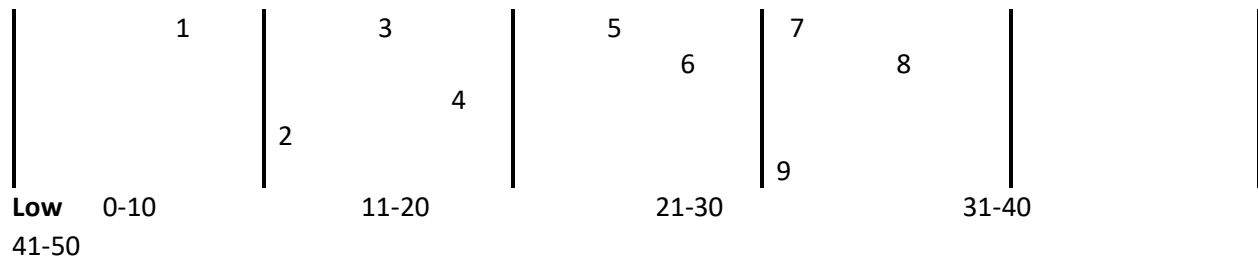
Share Your Story Timeline – Short Version

Follow the Timeline example in order to keep it brief. This can be a great exercise to come back to in more detail later when the group is ready to deep dive into their lives. The goal is for folks to get to know you in this introductory time. Do not feel pressure to share too much too fast. It is a good idea to practice before and time yourself to make sure you stay inside time constraints for your first group meeting. (5 minutes in this case)

Mark out sections and create labels for sections of your life, decades may work well or if another grouping makes more sense for your story use that. On the top write High and bottom write Low. Starting at the left and moving right think of a significant event in your life write a number on the timeline and place it high or low depending on how you view the event. Below the timeline write the matching number and a brief description of the event as a prompt.

Timeline Example

High



1. Family moved to Louisville
2. Dad abandoned our family
3. Discovered love of baseball
4. Broke up with college girlfriend
5. Met my wife

6. Had our first child
7. Got baptized
8. Had our 2nd child
9. Family cancer diagnosis

Leader Notes: As the leader you have the opportunity at many of the high points and low points to show what God taught you during this season. Be dead level honest. On the positive moments, did you see God's hand at the time? When did you begin to see how he was pursuing, loving, and revealing Himself to you? If you still have trouble seeing God in one (or more), say so!

One good tip is to practice ahead of time. You may be surprised how long it takes you to walk through your story. While it is important to give a full picture, you want to create space for other people to share during your time together as a group in this introduction version. If people struggle during their storytelling, feel free to ask clarifying questions. Many people may be hesitant to share their stories, or they have not thought about how events in their lives connect and have brought them to where they are today. Be encouraging and let them know that this is just a quick exercise so everyone can get to know each other.

<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting 1: Community</p> <p>Start time with food, potluck, pizza, keep it simple. As group time starts make sure everyone introduces themselves again and lets the group know a little about who they are.</p> <p>Icebreaker: 3 Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where you grew up? 2. First job? 3. Favorite French fry? <p>Open: Thank you for being part of this group. For the next four weeks we are going to explore what group life looks like. We know showing up to the group for the first time can be intimidating so thanks for taking that chance. Following Jesus in community creates great opportunities for growth. There are 4 aspects to a healthy group each week we will dive into one of those aspects. They are community, study, service, and you.</p> <p>Study: Read John 2:1-12</p> <p>Question:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stood out to you from the passage in John? 2. Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding to be his first public miracle? 	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting 2: Study</p> <p>Start time with snacks</p> <p>Icebreaker: Ask what everyone's highs from the past week are. As the leader go first, share in under 30 sec. Go around again asking what everyone's lows were from last week.</p> <p>Open: Another important part of a healthy group is our time we spend with God. In our study and prayer time we have the opportunity with others to connect to God, hear from him and be obedient to what He is telling us to do. Jesus was in constant contact with his Father. He took time to pray regularly, to get away and focus on his relationship with his Father. Out of this focused time of abiding in the Father, he lived out his calling and mission. Abiding in our Heavenly Father is the starting place for healthy relationship and stepping out on mission for the Kingdom or as we say it here, Love the 'Ville.</p> <p>Study: Do Discovery Bible Study on Luke 6:6-19</p> <p>Additional question: Where do you notice in the story Jesus spending time with God(Study/prayer), time with his community, time serving others?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting 3: Service</p> <p>Icebreaker: 3 Questions (come up with your own) or Highs and lows.</p> <p>Question: Ask if anyone has a time when they served with an organization or group before? What they liked about it? What was challenging?</p> <p>Open: Here at Northeast, we are the Love the 'Ville church because we believe that following Jesus means serving and loving those inside and outside our church. As you have been meeting together for several weeks now you will notice that people bring different gifts and abilities to the group. When you leverage those different passions and abilities for the world you can make a Kingdom impact with those in your group. We need each other!</p> <p>Study: Do Discovery Bible Study on Mark 10:35-45</p> <p>Share your story: Leaders share your story. Use the timeline method and try to keep it 5 minutes. (see group leader web page)</p> <p>Walk everyone through the timeline method for sharing their story and ask them to be ready to share at the next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting 4: Story</p> <p>Start with highs and lows.</p> <p>Open: It is important that your group is a place where everyone feels comfortable to share. We ask that as you consider continuing on, you commit to a few things as a group member. First show up, make group a priority, the group misses out when you are not there. Second join in, take part in discussions by listening and contributing. Finally, we want you to be real with each other and know what is said at group stays at group.</p> <p>Activity: Let everyone know that the rest of the evening we will be sharing stories. Remind them that we want to get to know everyone and to hear everyone's story we need to keep it to 5 minutes.</p>