

Session 4

Turn on the Lights of Love

Connect and share

We are going to answer a question. We will go one person at a time. The question is: 'Where do you think God might be at work in your life at present? What is he working on?' Let's go around the group. We will take it slowly.

Follow up

Last time we each planned to sit down with Jesus this week. How did you find the experience?

Digging deeper

The apostle John wrote in the Bible:

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other,

God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us (1 John 4:10-12 NLT).

Which part of that speaks to you? How?

Plan

Let's make our plans for this week. We will do it differently this time. We are going to listen to God.

We are going to have seven minutes of silence. During that seven minutes you can sit on your chair, sit on the floor, stand, kneel—whatever you like. The only rules are: no talking and no checking your phone.

Simply give the time to God. And ask him to guide you. What would he like you to do? How can you turn on a light of love? Listen. Then write down what comes to you, or try to set it in your memory.

Getting ready for the next session

Take turns to read paragraphs.

Next week we are each going to tell a little of our personal story with God. Don't worry; even if you do not yet know Jesus well, you will be able to do this.

You will need to prepare your story. This guide is designed to help you get ready.

Choose one episode

Begin by choosing one episode from your story with God. You may choose for example:

- The time when you first came to know Jesus.
- A time when you struggled with a problem.
- A time of spiritual dryness.
- A period when God helped you with an issue in your life.
- A breakthrough in your spiritual journey.
- A significant work of the Spirit.
- A time of discovery.
- A period of spiritual growth.

Find the three parts to your story

Most good stories have three parts: the beginning, the middle and the end. The three parts to your story might be called:

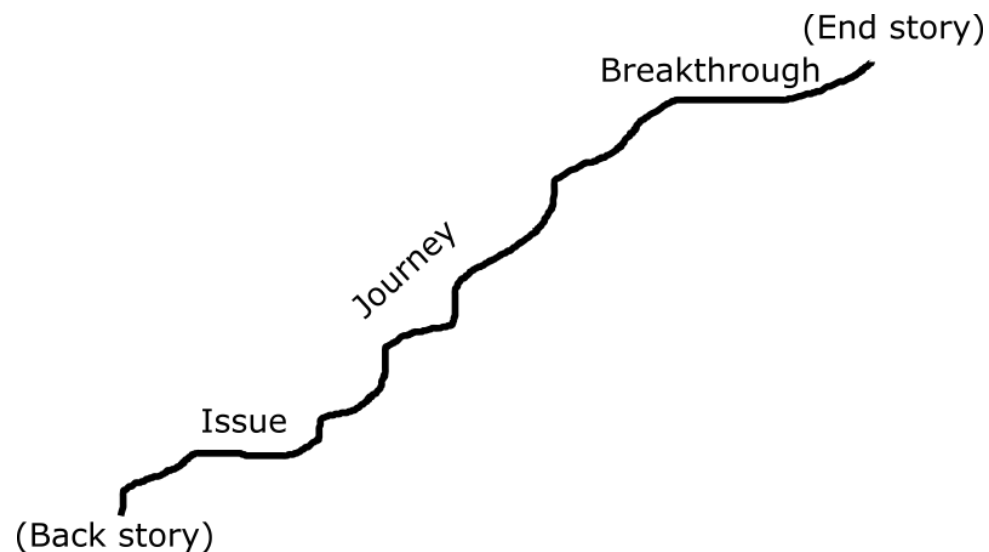
- The issue
- The journey
- The breakthrough.

Many movies have three acts. For example, in the movie classic *Back to the Future*, Marty lands in the past. He has to get his mum and dad to fall in love, and he has to get back to the future. That's Act 1--the issue is set up.

Acts 2 sees Marty and his friend Doc Brown madly trying to solve the issues. That is their journey.

Act 3 brings the climax, as Marty's dad fights off Biff, and Doc fires up his vehicle. That's the breakthrough.

Now here is one way to diagram your story.



Issue, journey and breakthrough

- The *back story* tells what happened before this story began. This should only be very brief
- The *issue* is the thing you were wrestling with.
- The *journey* is what happened in your life as you worked with the issue.
- The *breakthrough* is what God did. It is what eventually happened to you. It is what made the difference.
- The *end story* tells what things were like afterwards.

Your breakthrough does not need to be dramatic. It does not have to happen fast. It is just the thing God did which changed things for you.

The illustrated option

If you like you can illustrate your story with some artwork, or some photos. For example, you might begin with one of these diagrams, or something similar, and add your own creativity. Or you might choose to do it a different way.

Support

If you would like some support with telling your story, your facilitator will be happy to help.

Are we all clear on what we need to do?

Leader: Please make sure members not here today receive and read this handout so they can get ready.

Pray

Go around the group and briefly pray for each person. For example, each member could pray for the person on their left.

Pray that God would be with them as they put their plan into action.