



The Trophy Case: Celebrating a Lifetime of Redemption

By Brian Childres

Every man has a story to tell. This is a story of tragedy, love, adventure, victory, and failure. Although the details may be different, every man's story is the same: We all have sinned much and been sinned against. Because of this, shame, unforgiveness, and fear causes great pain. None of us can escape the heartache of living in our fallen world. And yet, there is a common thread amid every man's storyline. This common thread is the faithfulness and goodness of God.

How we live our lives today is connected to how we view our past. How do you view your life story today? There are only two ways to view any chapter of your personal story: through the redemptive eyes of God or the eyes of man. Have you allowed the blood of Jesus Christ to fully redeem every chapter of the story of your life?

This journey will take you on an in-depth tour of the big events, seasons, and relationships of the entirety of your life. Whether you are age 20 or 90 does not matter. We all have a story to tell. And every man's story can be a powerful gift to another man. This is how the gospel has transformed millions of people. One person sharing their personal Jesus story with another person. Our testimony has unbelievable power to transform another life. If we will only open our mouth and share it with another.



We believe that every man has a trophy case. And the trophies that sit in our trophy cases are the tragedies in our lives that God has redeemed. The best parts of our lives are our failures, not our successes. If this sounds backwards, it is not. The world is backwards as it boasts in its successes. But those of us who are living a life of true abundance boast only in Jesus Christ. Only in Jesus Christ do we find true life, real success, true riches. And no man can boast in Christ unless he has humbled himself, admitted his need, and allowed Jesus to rescue him from his self.

Take a look at your trophy case right now. What do you see? Can you brag about how God has redeemed you from a lifetime of mistakes and wounds? What about the most painful event in your life? Maybe it was the death of a child, a divorce, a debilitating illness, an excruciating childhood, or financial ruin. Can you honestly give thanks for that hardship because of what God did in your heart in the midst of the pain? Or maybe your trophy case is half-empty because there are chapters in your life that have yet to be redeemed by Jesus.

If any man is in Christ, he is a new Creation. The old has passed away, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17). Have you allowed the old painful chapters of your life to become



new life and growth and blessing? God always redeems everything if we let him.

The Trophy Case journey will give you and your brothers four opportunities:

1. The opportunity to celebrate what God did in the past significant chapters of your life,
2. Identify the parts of your story that have not been fully redeemed. Both opportunities are huge for both you and your brothers,
3. Clarify and practice putting a voice to your powerful testimony, and
4. Deepen the love and bond between you and your SPAR brothers.



Preparing for the Journey

We ask that every man spend at least 1 hour in prayerful preparation for this journey. You will be given the opportunity to share, in chronological order, 5 (approximately) of the biggest events, seasons, or relationships of your entire life (from childhood to current). We ask that you only choose events that impacted your heart significantly. There may be an event in your life that was big but had little heart impact. For example, your wedding day may have been a big event, but not made a huge impact on your life. Make the focus on the heart impact, not the event itself.

Examples

Teenage years: pain of not having a dad.

Age 27 Separated from wife: shame and unforgiveness.

Age 36 Mother died: struggle to mourn and grieve.

Age 39 Lost my job: discovering who I was in Christ.

We will give each man an entire SPAR session to tell their story and receive ministry from their SPAR group. This usually means 1 hour of sharing and 1 hour of ministry. Here are the ground rules for the sharing portion:



- The other men need to take notes to assist in the ministry time. There are common themes that show up in a man's story.
- No commenting or talking at all.
- Questions for clarification or basic probing can be asked. Save the intense ministry questions for the end.

Ministry Time

1. Heart issues to look for: shame, unforgiveness, and lies still believed.
2. Probe into the significant relationships that appear in the man's story.
3. Which chapters are "boasting in Jesus"? Which chapters contain victim-thinking, frustration, pain, despair, etc.?
4. Leave plenty of time for a God Encounter. Most men will have at least one significant spiritual need that the Holy Spirit reveals. Only God can help the man once this need is exposed. Pray!
5. After the prayer time, let the man put a voice to what God did in his heart as a result of the entire journey.



6. Most importantly, let each man share how they were specifically impacted by the man's story. This is always a great encouragement to the man who courageously share his story.

TIP - There is always that one chapter of utmost shame in your life story. Some men are afraid to share this chapter. This is the MOST important chapter. The reason that you do not want to share it is the very reason that you need to! Be courageous. Humble yourself. Remember, every chapter of your story will impact at least one other man.



We have discovered that men can only be spiritually healthy when they are intimately connected with other men. Once this connection takes place, spiritual growth accelerates. Husbands begin to love and serve their wives. Dads begin to spend more time with their children. The local church benefits greatly: more mature and committed leaders.

We have witnessed many churches be greatly impacted by men relationally discipling other men. The ripple effect can be huge. Whether you choose to host a Men's Bootcamp or start a new SPAR Group, spiritual renewal is just waiting to happen. Men are hungry for discipleship opportunities that make them come alive. Let us serve you!

Join us in the pursuit of authentic masculinity

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