

01

Your unwritten
autobiography



WHY?

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10



If you are a Christian, you already have everything you need for your life story to make an impact that will last for ever.

What story are you going to write?



ONE WAY



When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

How realistic do you think it is to imagine that your life from this point on could make a genuinely positive impact in the world?

1

Outrageous plans:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

God has a superb, outrageously amazing plan for your life which he planned for you before you were even born.



According to sociologists our generation is more self-obsessed than any generation that has come before.

Even when you get all the material and worldly things you think you want – there is still a void, a sense of pointlessness.

Narcissism:
inordinate fascination with oneself; excessive self-love; vanity. Synonyms: self-centeredness, smugness, egocentrism. (dictionary.com)



Chat

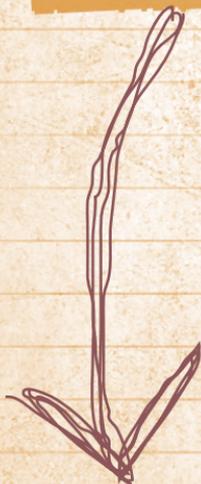
Thinking about what you wanted to be when you grew when you were a child, did this change over the years? If so, why did it change?

Looking to the future, if you were to list three things you want from the rest of your life, what would they be?

2



Outrageous love - Outrageous grace



- You already have everything you need to make your life count for eternity and fulfil the plans God has for you – if you have become a child of God.
- God likes, delights, and loves you unconditionally no matter what you have done or might do in the future.
- No one has a back story too bad or messed up to become the person God created them to be and make their life count!



The Parable of the Lost Son

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:11-24

Like the younger son, we have been given: the robe – we have been restored to a position of “right standing” with God; the ring – we have incredible power and authority in Christ; and the sandals – we have become children of God Himself and have all the rights and privileges of children.



Chat

Can you identify yourself with the younger son in the story? If so, in what ways?

How does the father in the story change the way you think about God and your relationship with Him?

Which of the items given to the younger son (and therefore to you too) is most significant to you? Why? What difference will knowing this make to you day to day?

EXTRA
FILM

ON THE
APP

WHY
BELIEVE
THE BIBLE?

Outrageous choice

The older brother thought he could please his father by working hard and doing the right thing. He was angry when the father simply accepted his little brother back and didn't even punish him. He didn't realize that he was already pleasing to his father just because of who he was.



The point Jesus was making is that God does not love you because of the good things you do. Or stop loving you when you do terrible things. In fact it's not about what you do at all. He loves you for who you are.

Disciple:

someone who is learning to become more and more like Jesus in character, and who will therefore behave more and more like Him.



Reflect

At the end of every session, we encourage you to have a time of reflection. Consider questions such as the following: What has God shown you today? What points have particularly struck you? Have you become aware of any faulty thinking, anything you have believed that you now realize is not in line with what is actually true according to God? If so, write it down on the pages at the end of this book.

Making our life stories count is not about trying harder or striving to follow God. It's simply about knowing God and knowing who you are. It all flows from your God-given identity and relationship with Jesus. However, it's by no means inevitable that you'll leave an eternal legacy – and making the choice to do so goes right against the prevailing culture.

There are things that want to hold you back and will do if you let them. But *disciple* will help you work out what they are and how to overcome them – every time.

Just some things that may be holding you back.





Going deeper

In the “Going deeper” section, you will find suggestions for things you can work on at home in between sessions in order to take the truths deeper. The *disciple* app has some additional help on that.

The truths in this session can be absolutely life changing if you can really take hold of them in your heart.



- Read through Luke 15:11–24 (it’s printed on page 18) and then take some time in quiet prayer to imagine the story again. Imagine yourself as the son or daughter returning, and God as the father. How does it make you feel to know that once you return to Him, you are loved completely and unconditionally, no matter what has happened to you or what you have done in your life?
- Think again about the ring, the robe, and the sandals and what they symbolize. Remind yourself that, if you’re a Christian, you already have them. Spend some time with God making a choice to use them in your life.
- Read the rest of the story (Luke 15:25–32). Can you recognize anything of the older brother’s attitude in you? In your relationship with God are you more like a son or a servant?



**NEXT
TIME**

**WE WILL BE GETTING TO GRIPS
WITH:**

- **THE BIGGEST CASE OF
IDENTITY THEFT EVER**
- **WHAT WE LOST AND HOW TO
GET IT BACK**
- **WHO WE REALLY ARE NOW
THAT WE HAVE COME TO
CHRIST.**

disciple: the journey continues...