

## Sharing Our God Stories

We believe that God is working in the world and that God is constantly inviting us to participate in that work. The Bible is filled with stories of how God interacted with individuals and worked through them to impact the world. Though the pages of the Bible have been bound, the stories of God are not finished. We each have our own stories of how God has spoken into our lives and molded us into the people we are today. Being comfortable sharing our stories with each other is a major way for us to help others recognize God at work in the world, and more specifically, in their own lives. As we listen to each other experiences of God, we also get insight into our neighbor's perspective and faith history. The more we practice this discipline the more comfortable and confident we will be. Let us practice together.

### Guided Reflection

Please take 10 minutes to reflect on the following questions.

**What has been one of your most vivid experiences of God?**

**What feeds your spiritually?**

**What need do you see in your community?**

**Share about a meaningful time when you served someone else.**

After writing your own reflections, spend time with a small group sharing your stories and listening to each other's experiences of God.

## Sharing with your Congregations

It is a blessing to engage in personal reflection on how God is at work in our lives. The practice make us more mindful of how God is constantly molding, shaping, and comforting us through the ups and downs of life. We want to create space for everyone in our congregations to experience this sort of reflection and to practice sharing their stories. Here are some ideas of how you might bring this type of activity to your church ministry.

- Invite a session member to share their reflections on the questions above at the beginning of session meetings for the next year. Over the course of the year each session elder will have the opportunity to reflect on their story, share some of their reflections with others, and hear their friends share their own.
- Designate a portion of your church's newsletter for sharing "God Sightings". Invite congregation members to write a reflection of how they have witnessed God at work in their lives. This may require personal invitations initially and sharers could remain anonymous at first if that makes them more comfortable.
- During the announcements at church, designate a time once a month for a "Minute for Ministry" where a congregation members share how they have felt God's love in their lives.
- Engage curriculum— <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/engage/>
- What other ideas do you have to share?

The more we model reflecting and model story telling in our congregations, the more comfortable our members will become with the idea. The more we bring people's attention to how we see God at work, the more their eyes will be opened to how God is already working in their own lives as well.