

### **Sharing Life Maps:**

**The plan is for a person to share their Life Map each week.**

The recommended time limit to share your Life Map, about 15-20 minutes each.

Please type out all that you will share, in doing so the combined total should not exceed 2700 words.

No life can adequately be summarized in 15-20 minutes, but you are seeking to identify those shaping circumstances or themes that have formed you into the individual you are today.

As you begin to form your story, take some time to engage with the following resource. As you identify hard times, heroes, high points, and your heritage you can more clearly decide what needs to be shared as you share your story.

## My Story Exercise

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### Developing Your Life Map

Romans 8:28, NLT “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, and to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Have you considered how God has used significant experiences, people or events to form and develop His people? A Life Map is a visual representation of your life from birth to present. It highlights events God has used to mold and shape your character. The insights you gain through the Life Map process help you answer the questions, “Who am I, and where is the Lord leading me?” It can also help your group get to know and understand you better.

Consider the life of Abraham. His journey took him through both the lows and highs of life. They also brought him in contact with all sorts of people and places. Most importantly, you can see how these experiences helped shape his relationship with God. All of Abraham’s experiences – decisions, people, places, events, etc. - helped form and develop him.

These four steps will help you develop your Life Map so you can share it with others:

<p>Step 1: Reflection</p>	<p>Prayerfully consider people, places and events that have marked your life. Make a list. Be sure to use the Life Map worksheet to help you categorize your thoughts. The terms on the worksheet identify categories you should include. Ask yourself the following questions for each category:</p>			
	<p><b>HERITAGE</b> How have your family relationships influenced your life? What ethnic or geographical influences shaped your life?</p>	<p><b>HIGH POINTS</b> What experiences have you especially enjoyed? Why?</p>	<p><b>HARD TIMES</b> What experiences were especially difficult or painful? Why?</p>	<p><b>HEROES</b> What relationships significantly influenced your character or shaped your direction (positively &amp; negatively) How? Why?</p>
<p>Step 2: Analysis</p>	<p>Now that you have reflected over your life up to today and have a list of your heroes, heritage, high points, and hard times it’s time to analyze which of these you want to put in your Life Map. While it would be nice to share everything, focus on the most significant influences and experiences in your life. Spend some time praying through what you have listed. What you choose is totally up to you. You should not plan to spend any longer than 30 minutes sharing your Life Map with your group.</p>			
<p>Step 3: Organization</p>	<p>You are now ready to synthesize this information into a logical flow of thought. How do these people, places and events fit together?</p>			
<p>Step 4: Presentation</p>	<p>This is where you exercise your creative powers. How will you deliver your story? What medium fits your style of communication? You could draw your map like an ancient sea journey with battles, treasures and tropical islands. You could also use a narrative story, graph, photographs or music. Be as creative as you can be to depict your life story. If you are presenting this to your group, remember to make it large enough for everyone to see and read easily.</p>			

Name:	Age/Lifestage	Location	Age/Lifestage	Location
<p><b>HERITAGE:</b> How have your family relationships, ethnic or geographical influences shaped your life?</p>				
<p><b>HEROES:</b> What relationships influenced your character/shaped your direction (positively &amp; negatively)? How? Why?</p>				
<p><b>HIGH POINTS:</b> What experiences have you especially enjoyed? Why?</p>				
<p><b>HARD TIMES:</b> What experiences were especially difficult or painful? Why?</p>				
<p><b>HAND OF GOD:</b> When/how have you seen God's hand at work in your life? List specific events that illustrate His work in your life.</p>				