

HOW TO GUARANTEE A GREAT STORY

The first key to a great story is to live *Intentional*. The second key to a great story is finding my *Why*. The third key to a great story is to *Get Started*.

The forth key to a great story is...

Intentionally 'DO' THINGS that will make it GREAT.

The significance gap -

the distance between intending to do something and actually doing it!

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say...I will show you my faith **by my good deeds**."

James 2:18 (NLT)

THREE THINGS THAT WILL GUARANTEE A STORY WORTH LIVING Case Study of Nehemiah

1. Everyday DO one thing that will bring value to God.

Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel...O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you...

Nehemiah 1:5-6 &11 (NLT)

Four surefire ways to bring value to God (Colossians 1:9-12)

- Do good stuff for Him.
- · Grow up.
- Grow strong in our faith.
- Be grateful.

2. Everyday DO one thing that will bring value to someone else.

During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

Nehemiah 4:23 (NLT)

How to intentionally develop my love for other people...

- Develop my attitude of **gratitude** for those who have loved me.
- Listen to other people's stories.
- Put myself in their shoes and in their story.
- Put other people's interests above my own.
- Make winning a group activity.
- Do something **daily** to help someone else.

3. Everyday try to **DO** one thing that will bring the two together.

In October, when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. ... Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord... Nehemiah 7:73 - 8:1&6 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own. 2017 is the year where we as a people are *A People on Mission*. Here is a checkup. Have you adopted a family in need yet? If not, why not? It is not intentions that make a great story, but doing. You were given cards of encouragement to pray for individuals and then place the card where they could find it. Have you done that yet? What is one thing you can do every day this week to bring value to God? What is one thing you can do this week to bring value to someone else? Write me at Jay@centerpointchurch.com and tell me your story.