

# STAGES

## *Finding God Where You Are*

### AT A GLANCE:

Our talk series, STAGES: Finding God Where You Are, is about the various phases of life and how one may know and feel the Presence of God in each of those stages.

**First Stage:** The first 20 years of your life, and its purpose is to explore, to discover who you are—specifically, your calling, your values, and your identity.

**Second Stage:** The next 20 years—from 20 to 40 years old—and its purpose is to expand your life. In this stage, you develop your calling, your craft, and as always, your character. You also enter into new territories.

**Third Stage:** The next 20 years—from 40 to 60 years old—which is the time to be exact. To zero in. To focus even more on your distinct mission and increase your impact in the world.

**Fourth Stage:** This consists of the remaining years of your life, where you prepare your exit, pass on the baton, and possibly enter into new worlds.

### AFTER THE SERIES:

You will see God in what you're doing. You will see God in the ordinary routine of your daily life.

## Talk 1: "Explore "

### WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Talk 1 is about the first 20 years of your life, and its purpose is to explore, to discover who you are—specifically, your calling, your values, and your identity.

The key message is God is right here, right now.

### I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

The Bible says, *There is a time for everything* (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV).

**Review** the story of the young David and how he was prepared for his big role of fighting and defeating the Philistine Goliath. When David volunteered to fight Goliath, King Saul asked him how could a young guy like him fight a grizzled warrior like Goliath.

David answered, *"Your Majesty, I take care of my father's sheep. Any time a lion or a bear carries off a lamb, I go after it, attack it, and rescue the lamb. And if the lion or bear turns on me, I grab it by the throat and beat it to death. I have killed lions and bears, and I will do the same to this heathen Philistine, who has defied the army of the living God. The Lord has saved me from lions and bears; he will save me from this Philistine."*

When he was a shepherd boy, David didn't know that this crummy and dangerous job prepared him for the fight of his life. That duel with Goliath defined his destiny.

But God prepared him way before that day.

Here's the truth: In the First Stage of your life, God was already there, preparing you for your calling.

## STAGES

**Talk 1:**  
*Explore*

**Talk 2:**  
*Expand*

**Talk 3:**  
*Exact*

**Talk 4:**  
*Exit*

Notes:

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Our problem is we don't like ordinary. But God is found in your ordinary.

His call: Be faithful to your ordinary.

This is why Jesus said, *Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones....* (Luke 16:10 GNT)

## II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

**Ask** for sharing on the basic operating system that quietly works behind all our thinking, speaking, and acting:

- LYP which means Living in Your Past.
- LYF which means Living in Your Future.
- LYN which means Living in Your Now

## III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

**Lead** members to an exploration of their spiritual growth by quietly answering these questions:

Am I becoming more selfless?

Is my character becoming like the character of Jesus?

Have I become more patient? More kind? More courageous? More compassionate? More generous? More humble?

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