

STORIES OF THE FAMILY

Whether in ancient texts, through delicate works of art, with turkey and dressing in your mouth, or streaming into your living room, the creative act of story-telling (and story-hearing) is the process through which individuals and whole communities construct our identity, make choices, and inspire action. So, your story is a part of the tapestry of OUR story of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. And we want and need to hear it because that's the best way for us to know one another more deeply and to build up our community.

The following questions and leading statements (3 pages in total) provide the framework for you to construct and share part of your story with us. Some of them are intentionally ambiguous - we want you to answer in the ways that are most authentic, most meaningful for you. You may write in your answers and read from these sheets in class or think through your answers ahead of time in order to use these sheets as an outline for speaking "off the cuff." You may also choose someone to serve as an interviewer who will ask you these questions during class if you prefer a more conversational model. OR if you have another idea of how you'd like to share using these questions, please call Matt and discuss your idea. We hope you enjoy this process...we can't wait to hear from you!

Your Story Through a Biblical Lens

(One of) My favorite character(s) in the bible is...

Retell that character's story here (or at least the part of the story that most speaks to you)...

The part of that story that I feel most connected with is...

Why do you think that is?

If your view of this character/story has changed over time, how has it changed and why?

What parts of your own story/life are similar to this character's story?

What parts of your own story/life are dissimilar to this character's story?

Your Story Through Your Journey's Lens

When I was a child, God was...

Now that I'm an adult, God is...

I am thankful that *(not "for")*...

Someone I respect for their faith is...

What I admire about that person's faith is...

Describe a meaningful prayer experience you've had.

One word or short phrase I would use in describing my relationship with the St. Mark's community is...

Now, please elaborate on that word or phrase.

Please share one thing about you that we'd never know by simply looking at you.

Is there any part of your story that you'd like to share but haven't shared yet?

Bonus (Fun) Question

If you HAD to get a tattoo (*or another tattoo*), what would it be and why?