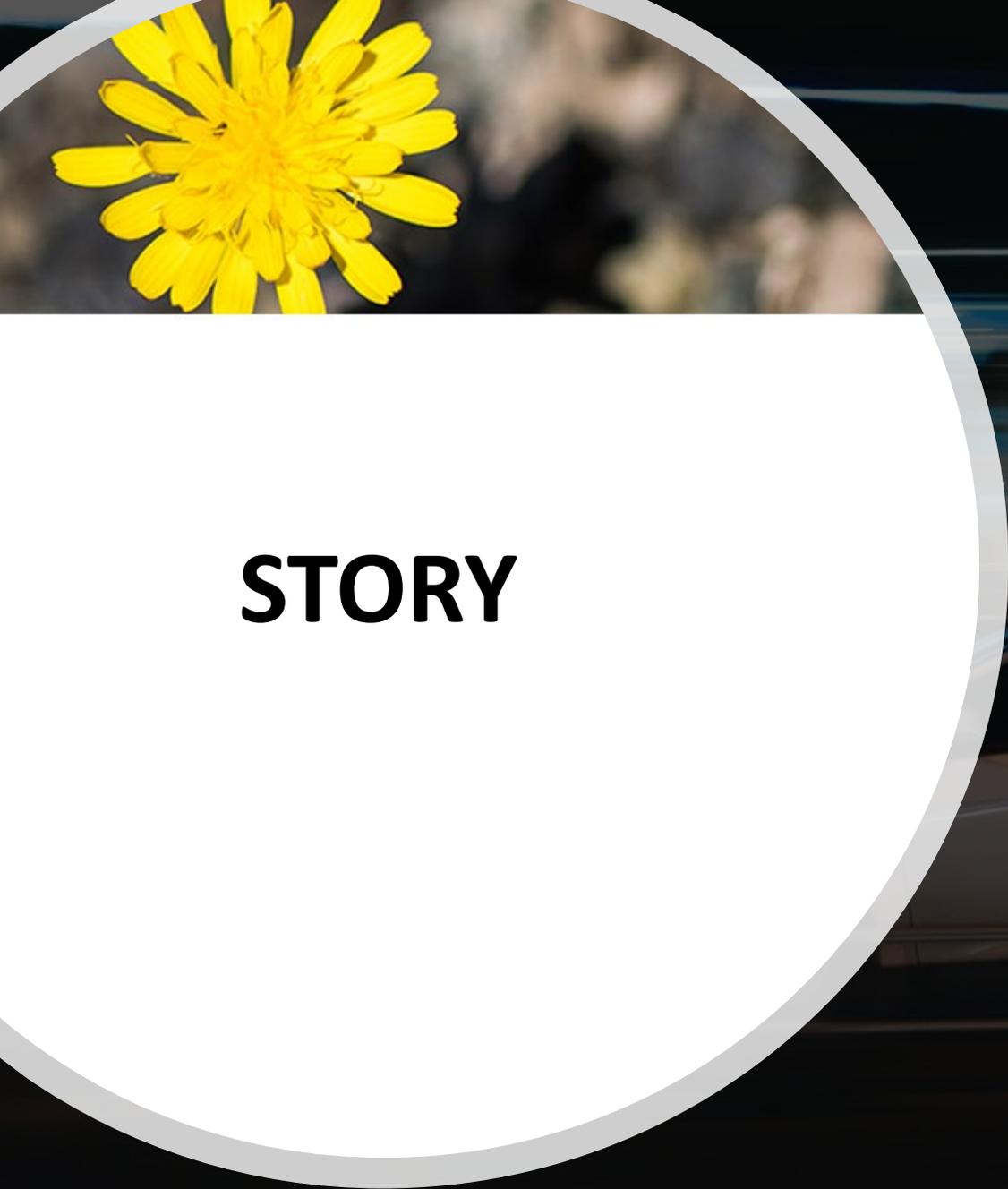




MOOD OVER MATTER

Ephesians 4:32





STORY





RADICAL FORGIVENESS

- It is a powerful act.
- It strikes our hearts and takes our breath away.
- It causes us to ask the question, “How could you find it in your heart to forgive such a horrible act? The natural human heart seeks revenge.”





HOW CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE?

- Let us examine the teachings of Jesus Himself to find the framework of forgiveness. We will read the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 as He describes a scenario of an offended person with a forgiving heart who confronts an offender. We will learn what Christ's instructions are about forgiveness.





“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector”

(Matthew 18:15-17, NIV).





- The **offended person should initiate a meeting** with the offender. _____
- The goal of the encounter is to bring about **healing if it is possible without further abuse/opposition.**
- The **offended person should treat the matter with secrecy, careful not to make public** the offense or the meeting.
- If necessary, this step may be repeated with an **additional witness or two at the meeting.**





Supernatural Spirit of Jesus Christ

- From the cross Jesus interceded for all of his accusers, abusers, and deserters, and a Roman centurion standing nearby heard His selfless prayer. Astonished by the supernatural activity surrounding the Crucifixion and by the supernatural spirit of tenderness and forgiveness in Jesus of Nazareth, the centurion exclaimed, “Truly, this man was the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39, NKJV).





THREE TOOLS FOR A HAVING A LOVING AND FORGIVING HEART

These tools can reap the harvest of a loving and forgiving heart.



1. PRAY FOR THE OFFENDER

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45



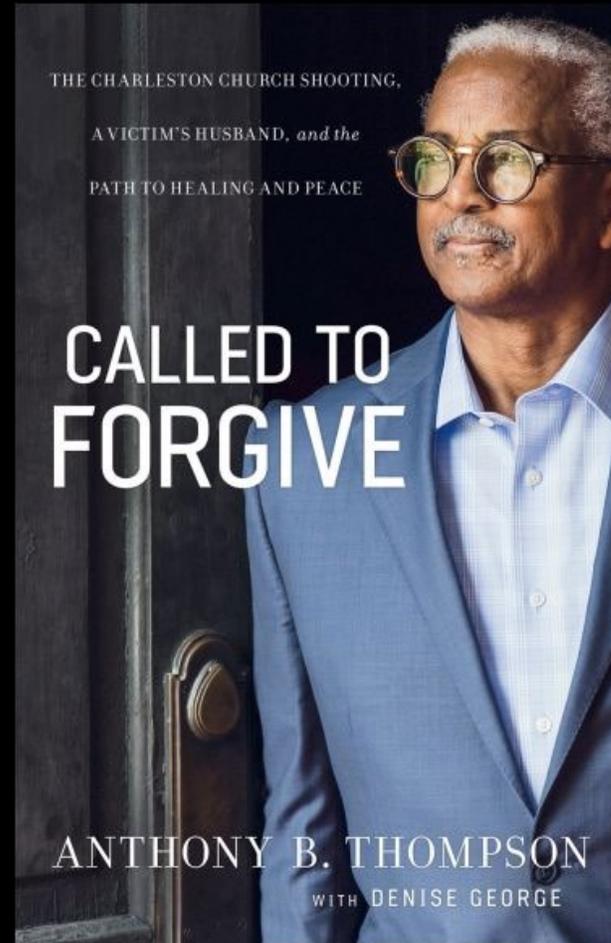
2. CLAIM BIBLE PROMISES.

- “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”—Matthew 19:26, NIV
- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”—Philippians 4:13, NKJV
- “Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”—Romans 12:21, NIV



3. PRACTICE FORGIVENESS.

Read stories of people (both biblical and biographical) who have offered “radical” forgiveness. Even when you do not feel like it, let go of anger and hurt, resentment and bitterness. This process will bring healing and you can resume healthy relationships with our families and with God.





PRAYER.

conversations with God

3 NAMES OF PEOPLE YOU NEED TO FORGIVE

