

Finding Your Place in a Bigger Story

We are drawn to story – in the lyrics we listen to, in the films we watch, in the books we read. Often we forget that we are part of a story – we deal with conflict, set out for new adventures and engage in relationship with others. We fall into day-to-day life and forget that our story, too, has rising action, a hero's journey, a character who wants something. We forget that we are part of the greatest story ever told.

During your mission trip, you likely developed some parts of your story. You travelled to a new place. You shared holy moments. Likely you had some questions. You were called to be like Jesus. These are things that make a story great. Relationships. Challenges. Victories. God at work.

Character transformation is another part of every story. A character grows, develops, overcomes conflict, and perseveres through the course of their story. Loving, serving, guiding, being in relationship with others – it's all part of a great, wild, wonderful story. Just because your mission trip is over doesn't mean your story is. The part of your story lived out on your mission trip has the potential to change your day-to-day life.

If you stopped now, it would be like closing a book after the first chapter and saying, "That was a great book!" You only experience the beginning of something powerful, meaningful and transformational. You've got to keep reading to understand the bigger picture, the greater story.

Consider, reflect on and pray on these parts of your story:

- > the funniest part of your story
- > the hardest part of your story
- > the easiest part of your story
- > the part of your story you are most proud of
- > the part of your story that changed you
- > the guides who walked with you through your story
- > the part of your story that inspires others
- > the next chapter of your story