

# RESCUED

everyone's story

## FREEDOM HANDBOOK



GRACE SEMINAR 2015

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# SESSION ONE **The Power of Story**

## **OBJECTIVE**

To enable participants to see the power of story in the shaping of their lives. To understand the Gospel, the good news story, and how it is intended to shape life.

## **OPENING EXERCISE**

### 1. IDENTIFYING MY STORY

'I understand scripture?'

What influenced your answer? Where did you get that from?

Listen to yourself - What shaped your response?

Listen to your response to the above question and look to identify what the shaping story is to your answer, why did I answer the way I did?

My story is shaped by my thinking that sounds like this.....

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Now listen, where did this story come from?

The influencers that have shaped my thinking are.

- Experience (pain, success, failure, reward) \_\_\_\_\_
- Family/Friends \_\_\_\_\_
- Culture/Media \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. CHANGING MY STORY

With new stimulation, new encounters, healing or truth comes the opportunity to change your story.

## **SCRIPTURE**

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

“When he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

“The word of God is alive and active...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Scripture says: "Yes, I can understand it." WHY? Because of His presence. It's not because I am smart, but because he is with me, because the word speaks to me.

3. ACTIVATE NEW STORY – RRBR

4. ENGAGEMENT TOOL - SOAP (see appendix A)

**THE POWER OF STORY**

You live life from your story, you are a living, unfolding story.

You respond to stimulus, situations, questions, and our responses shape our stories.

*"All of life is a story" Madeleine L'Engle*

Shakespeare - *"Be aware of the story you tell yourself for you will surely be lived by them."*

Proverbs *"as a man thinks in his heart, so he acts."*

Jesus invites us to take responsibility for our stories. The victory of the cross is the victory of choice, the challenge of the cross is responsibility.

Jesus said - *"I have come that you may have abundant life."* (John 10:10)

Ephesians 1:12 *"Long before we heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone."*

HOW??? - If Jesus was successful how do I get my hands on his promise of abundant life?

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What else did Jesus say in the same breath?

There is another, *"a thief who will steal, kill, destroy."* (John 10:10)

HOW??? - How does the thief do his thieving?

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Passionate intention + bad story = Frustrated life.

On the whole do you think you are living an abundant life?

Where not? Why?

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Jesus has come to reshape every story we are living from so that he can write an abundant life story in every arena and circumstance of your life. Our circumstances are NOT what is important, our stories are.

**EXERCISE:** What is the good news story Jesus came to give us? (15 words or less.)

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What did Jesus say the good news is?

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What is our responsibility?

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What is the Kingdom of God?

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God has moved... We must now move.

Jesus spoke more about the Kingdom of God than any other subject. (mentions Kingdom 72 occasions.)

*“Once you lose the Kingdom theme that is central to the gospels, everything else becomes reinterpreted in ways that radically distort, that substitute, a subtle different gospel message.”*

(N.T. Wright – When God became King)

The SHAPE of our story is a rescue story.

In order to live in a rescue story then you need to know how rescue stories are written.

3 parts to any rescue story FROM – THROUGH – TO

COLOSSIANS 1:21-22

**FROM**

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour.*

**THROUGH**

*But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death.*

**TO**

*To present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*

Rescue is all over scripture:

- Ephesians 2:12,13 and 19,22
- Galatians 4:3-7
- Ephesians 2:1-6
- Titus 3:3-7
- Colossians 1:13
- Colossians 2:13-14
- 2 Peter 1:3-4

If you are living from a rescue story then what part of the story do you live in?

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If you want to live in the abundant life that Jesus came to give then you need to live from the story of the Kingdom. The enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy the story wants you to live under the influence of his kingdom.

Every decision/story I write will be written under the influence of one of the two kingdoms.

How do you write into your life the abundant life Jesus promised?

1. Self-awareness

*“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5*

2. Renew your mind

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is---his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2*

Prayer framework for renewing your mind

R = \_\_\_\_\_

(Change your mind, story)

R = \_\_\_\_\_

(take back all rights and agreements given to stories of darkness, including forgiving those who gave you the story)

B = \_\_\_\_\_

(break the story off in the name of the true Lord Jesus. Break it off your mind, will, emotions, body, spirit and generational lines)

R = \_\_\_\_\_

(receive the new story of the Kingdom of God)

R = \_\_\_\_\_

(give praise and thanks)

NOTES:

## SESSION TWO My Acceptance Story – Right with God

### OBJECTIVE

To enable participants to understand their ‘righteousness’ story. And to be healed and equipped to stand and live upon its foundation.

### PERSONAL EXERCISE: listening to myself

“I feel distance from God.” / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 often                      sometimes                      rarely                      never

“My sin affects me and God” / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 often                      sometimes                      rarely                      never

“I experience the voices of shame, and condemnation”  
 / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 often                      sometimes                      rarely                      never

“I can commit murder and be right with God?” YES / NO

### THE WORLD’S ACCEPTANCE STORY

The world understands being acceptable to God from the framework of earn and deserve / law and punishment.

The world’s story for receiving is based on what I must do.

- no free lunches
- you get what you deserve
- if you want it you must work for it
- it’s up to you

The best known bad news story.... "If I came to your church the roof would fall in."

You must pass the 'good enough' test.

What mark must I get in order to pass? \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to behave well enough to get in God's good books you need to be PERFECT, anything less is FAIL.

If you want to behave good enough for God then you have to be perfect always. And not just in the way you behave but the way that you think. *"If a man lusts after another woman in his heart he has commuted adultery."*

Is this good news???

Why did God give us His laws? How do I understand law in the context of scripture?

Romans 5:20 *"the law was brought in so that the trespass might increase."* (NIV)

Romans 5:20 *"God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they are."* (NLT)

It wasn't so that we would follow them, it was so that we would \_\_\_\_\_

The law does not make me good (never intended to); it reflects my condition, sinner, and my need for a saviour/rescuer.

When do you call for a rescuer? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would a God, who desperately wants to have relationship with me, make the bar of acceptance so high? \_\_\_\_\_

The good news is not STOP IT and be good so you can be right with God, the good news is STOP IT, stop trying.

**HEAVEN'S ACCEPTANCE STORY**

\_\_\_\_\_ = right with God

What part did I play?

Romans 5:6, 8, 10

*[6] You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

*[8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*[10] For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

What part did I play in my acceptance story?

v6 \_\_\_\_\_

v8 \_\_\_\_\_

v10 \_\_\_\_\_

Old Testament righteousness is a for-runner for New Testament righteousness.

John the Baptist - *"behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."*

**PERSONAL AWARENESS EXERCISE**

How do you 'feel', think about yourself when you have done the wrong thing (sin)?

\_\_\_\_\_

How powerful does that feel?

/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
1 (not powerful)      5      10 (very powerful)

When your righteousness, your CITIZENSHIP is in question there is only one answer:

\_\_\_\_\_

No THING you do can disqualify citizenship (e.g. AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE YOUR STORY?**

Prodigal son (Luke 15:11) - what story will you live from?

- Younger Son - *"I have sinned, I am no longer worthy."*
- Father's story – *"runs, hugs, kisses...robe, ring, sandals... feast and celebration."*
- Older son - *"all these years I have been slaving for you and you never gave me anything, not even a goat." (I worked hard for you SO I deserve the stuff I want from you!)*
- Fathers story – *"I am always with you and everything I have is yours."*

**PERSONAL AWARENESS EXERCISE**

Which of the above four stories do you most identify with as your story? \_\_\_\_\_

Who, where, did you get that story from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important we don't write ourselves into our righteousness story? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is wrong with the below stories?

- Jesus plus don't commit adultery = right with God
- Jesus plus read your bible = right with God
- Jesus plus love God = right with God

Do not edit 'you' into the story.

If, Jesus + your goodness = right with God,  
then it must follow, Jesus + your badness = not right with God.

‘Jesus +’ righteousness is deadly to the good news message of Jesus.

Jim Palmer (Divine Nobodies):

*“It is amazing how one can talk a good grace game, but for all practical purposes live by the law. I’ve learned that the “grace but...” mentality is as lethal as anything you can sniff, take or shoot.”*

**QUESTION:** So can I commit murder and be right with God???

Brennan Manning – Ragamuffin Gospel

*“The foremost characteristic of living by grace is trusting in the redeeming work of Jesus.”*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SO HOW DOES MY BEHAVIOUR FIT WITHIN MY STORY?**

1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23 *“everything is permissible but not beneficial.”*

What is your response to *“everything is permissible?”* Are you troubled/concerned by it?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy"*  
 (Hebrews 10:14)

The two 'STATES of RESCUE' - CitizenSHIP and CitizenLIFE.

<b>CitizenSHIP</b>	<b>CitizenLIFE</b>
<i>"everything is permissible"</i>	<i>"not everything is beneficial"</i>
POSITIONAL in Christ	CONDITIONAL upon me
<i>"You have been made perfect."</i>	<i>"you are being made holy"</i>
COMPLETED work of justification	ONGOING work of sanctification
<i>"There is now no condemnation" (Rom 8:1)</i>	<i>"as you sow so shall you reap."(Gal 6:7-8)</i>
Being born again	Discipleship / Holiness
I have been saved / rescued	I am being saved / rescued

How do you interpret the below scripture?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NIV

*"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."*

NOTE: when we read scripture we must be aware of the 'state of rescue' that the author is referring to.

What is the ONE thing you MUST have in order to be made right with God? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the ONE thing you MUST have in order to be made holy? \_\_\_\_\_

What do I need in order to embrace my sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT ABOUT FAITH?**

Where does the role of faith fit in the rescue story?

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith." (Ephesians 2:8)*

What is wrong with: Jesus + faith = right with God?

R.T Kendall (The unfailing love of Jesus):

*"Saving faith is when you transfer all the trust you had in yourself to what Jesus has done for you."*

BUT, BUT, BUT....

James 2 *"faith without works is dead."*

How do we understand what James is saying here?

You can't be in the Kingdom and not influenced by it.

When the King declares your righteousness it will produce Kingdom likeness.

Problem - man wants to legislate what this looks like.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION:**

Rescued by Jesus - In for free, on for free!

St Augustine: *“Love God and do as you please.”*

The story is completed (*“He sat down,”* Hebrews 1:3, 10:12) I have absolutely no role to play in its authorship; I am invited into the pleasure of making it my story.

“Be aware of the story you tell yourself for you will surely be lived by it.” Shakespeare

Declaration: This is my righteousness / acceptance story:

**Jesus plus nothing = right with God**

Declaration: RRBR

“I **repent**, I change my mind,

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I **renounce** when I have agreed and partnered with the above stories. I take back all agreements and rights I have given these stories in my life. I renounce all vows I have made (e.g. I will never measure up...I must be good enough for God to accept me etc). I recognise my sin and my desperate need for rescue.

I **break** these performance and disqualification stories off my life in the name of the true Lord Jesus. I break them off my mind and thinking, I break them off my will and emotions, I break them off my body and spirit, and I break with them generationally.

I **renew** my mind with Heavens acceptance story. I am right with God based on Jesus plus nothing. I do not need to behave rightly, I do not need to measure up, I need to call out – ‘Jesus rescue me.’ In the completed work of the cross I am made perfect forever in the eyes of God. I will live by this story.

I choose by faith to know myself as completely right with God, welcome in His presence always.

I will not rely on my feelings to speak this truth, I will renew my mind by faith and allow my feelings to catch up. Holy Spirit if I need healing in my past that has established in my life any story that challenges this truth then I receive your leading to my complete freedom.

I **rave** about your

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Notes:





I was hurt by love when.....

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**EXERCISE**

Write three things you love about something on one side of a piece of paper (a thing not a living thing).

i.e. I love coffee because 1..... 2..... 3.....

Now on the other side of the paper write three things you don't love about the thing you loved above. i.e.

When/what/why do you not love coffee 1..... 2..... 3.....

**EXERCISE**

On a separate piece of paper write three things that God loves about you.

On the other side of the paper write three things God doesn't love about you.

**THE WORLD'S LOVE STORY**

The world calculates love.

I MUST be loveable in order to be loved.

*"I need love therefore I must be loveable."*

Love must BEcaused, love is produced, aroused, earned, deserved.

I have to bring the BE in order to CAUSE love.

The world's love story is – I love Because.

We fall out of love when the BE-CAUSE ceases to BE CAUSED.

We settle for the love we think we deserve.

How 'loveable' would you say you are?

/ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /  
 Not really                      somewhat                      Very

My "loveable" story is shaped by my thinking that sounds like this....

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Now listen, where did this story come from?

The influencer's that have shaped my thinking are.

- Experience (pain, success, failure, reward) \_\_\_\_\_
- Family/Friends \_\_\_\_\_
- Culture/Media \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**HEAVEN'S LOVE STORY**

We come to the King and we say - "*do you love me?*"

He says - "*YES*"

And we ask - "*why?*"

(The world's story has taught us that love has a why? It must BEcaused.)

The King says - "*No why?*"

And we argue and demand to know why. In order to be loved I must do the things that cause love, there is always a why!!!!

We say to God - "*Tell me why you love me so I can arouse you to love me more.*"

When I know why, then I can calculate love, I can make love happen.

But Heaven’s love story has no cause – it is

***Loved without Cause***

God is love, he doesn't DO love, he is not CAUSED to love, he does not love as a response to stimulus, love is the essential nature of who he is.

NO WHY = NO NEED to stimulate.

When you are loved without cause then all that is left is to BE loved.

And that is what God calls you – “His BEloved.”

You are not powerful enough to change God. If God stopped loving you he would cease to be God!

Give up and get loved.

To be in the Kingdom of God is to BEloved.

*“The disciple who Jesus loved.”*

Who was the disciple whom Jesus loved? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he do to get this title? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOW LOVED AM I?**

1. NO SEPARATION – Romans 8:35-39

2. THE FATHER LOVES ME AS HE LOVED JESUS

John 17:23 (NIV) *“Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

**(NOTE:** Meditate on latter. In appendix C is a love letter from the Father to you. Use this to allow the Father to speak his love into your thinking and over your life.)

You need to BEloved in order TOlove.

Rip up ‘God loves me when’ lists

Write a new love story – RRBRR

**The love of the Father.**

Our view of God the Father is often filtered through your view of your earthly father. Experiences of your earthly fathers can have an impact on the way we are able to receive the Love of our heavenly Father. In appendix B is a list of father types. It may be helpful to identify the type of father you experienced and allow Holy Spirit to lead you in healing so as you can receive the fullness of the love of your heavenly Father.

**CONCLUSION**

My new love story – **I am LOVED WITHOUT CAUSE.**

**Notes:**

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**PERSONAL EXERCISE**

Declaration: RRBR

“I **repent**, I change my mind,

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I **renounce** when I have agreed and partnered with the above stories. I take back all agreements and rights I have given these stories in my life. I renounce all vows I have made (e.g. I will never let anyone close to me....I am unlovable...etc).

I **break** these stories in the name of the true Lord Jesus off my mind and thinking, I break them off my will and emotions, I break them off my body and spirit, and I break with them generationally.

I **renew** my mind with Heavens love story. I am loved without cause. I do not need to be lovable, I do not need to cause love, and I am already and always will be His beloved child. God does not need to be caused to love me, he is love. I will receive His love, I will live in His love, and I will love others from being loved by Him.

I choose by faith to know myself as the disciple who Jesus loves, this is my love story, and I will shape my life on this truth.

I will not rely on my feelings, I will renew my mind by faith and allow my feelings to catch up. Holy Spirit if I need healing in this area of my life I receive your leading to my complete freedom and recovery of your love story for my life.

I **rave** about your

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## SESSION FOUR **My Forgiveness Story**

### **OBJECTIVE**

For participants to understand their forgiveness story and live free from shame and condemnation.

### **OPENING EXERCISE:**

“I live from a story of shame and feel the weight of shame and condemnation.”

/ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

NO

somewhat

YES

### **THE WORLD’S STORY OF FORGIVENESS:**

We often interpret our forgiveness story from a shaping story that God has forgiveness and I need to come and get it from him when I need it (which is often). The world shapes this story by making us believe that we must ‘beg’, show remorse, ‘pay for’, manipulate God, or at least earn from Him, the release of His forgiveness.

### **HEAVENS FORGIVENESS STORY:**

## **Forgiven before I ask.**

Our forgiveness story is not shaped by “please, and I will never do it again.” It is shaped by “thank you.”

We don’t ask for that which is already ours. Forgiveness was released 2000 years ago, it is my forever story.

### **WHAT ABOUT REPENTANCE?**

We repent because we are forgiven NOT so that we will be forgiven. Repentance changes my mind, I do no longer want my life to be shaped by the story that produced that behaviour. Repentance moves me not God.

Luke 23:44 *“It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.”*  
Sin of all ages gathered at the cross.

**NOTES:**

**APPENDIX A:****SOAP - Having your life read by the word of God.**

Sometimes the word of God brings revelation of new insights into your circumstances, your life, your identity. At other times it brings reminders as to your truth.

Read a passage of scripture and ask the following questions of Holy Spirit.

**S = Scripture:**

Listen for the verse or the theme that Holy Spirit wants to speak to you about. It will capture your interest or just stand out.

**O = Observation:**

Listen to Holy Spirit for what he wants to show you or teach you.

**A = Application:**

How does this relate to your life? What do you do with this? What does Holy Spirit want to reveal to you about how to shape your life based on what he is revealing?

**P = Prayer *RRBRR*:**

Take what has been revealed and form a prayer that may include –

*Repentance*

Changing your mind based on what has been revealed.

*Renouncing*

Taking back agreements that you have made that you see are not in line with what has been revealed.

*Breaking*

Breaking off your life (mind/body/emotions/generational lines) thoughts and actions that you see now are not of God's design.

This is done in the name of Jesus.

*Renew your mind*

Renewing your story for life in the truth that has been revealed

*Rave/Praise*

Giving thanks for what has been revealed and the life it brings.

**APPENDIX B:****FATHER TYPES**

1. **Absent father** – Not present when growing up. This may be due to death, divorce, work, other priorities, etc. Can result in feelings of rejection and abandonment. You may have trouble trusting that God will be there for you. He may feel distant and uninvolved. You may feel like in your spiritual walk you have to make it on your own, and you may have made a vow to make it on your own. We feel that God will not come through, be there, so we strive to get loved, noticed and approved. Or you may keep your distance from God as he may abandon you as your earthly father did.
2. **Passive father** – Is not responsive or involved. He is unemotional or withdrawn. He is there but not there, he does other things. Rarely gives affection or pursues you, he is emotionally withdrawn. It is not that he does not feel he just does not know how to show it. This can result in hidden anger and difficulties in getting in touch with our own emotions or receiving love. Passive father does not know how to protect their children so we can think that God can't protect us. Emotional connectedness with God can be difficult, you know he is about but you have trouble connecting with His presence.
3. **Performance orientated father** – Has high standards not balanced by enough love. Points to faults and failures, if there are all A's but one C on the report card, all attention is on the C. More interested in performance than relationship, and your performance is never good enough. Love and affirmation is only expressed in reference to your performance. You feel like you can never do anything, or enough, right. You can feel that you are never enough in Gods eyes, and your performance to be loved is tiresome and you often feel burnt out. You strive for God the Father to notice your worth and be accepted.
4. **Authoritarian father** – Is strict and lives by the rules. Obedience is valued above relationship. The authoritarian father is impossible to please, and this creates hurt, anger and loss of motivation. You see God as the policeman in the sky with the stick waiting for you to stuff up, so relationship with Him is hard. You feel more often like you are in trouble rather than His desire. We think all that interests Father God is our obedience to the rules.
5. **Abusive father** – He inflicts physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse upon the family. This creates great inner pain, fear and insecurity. The house is full of fear, and this is the father you hide from. Often children feel like the abuse is their fault and feel like they are the cause and to blame. The atmosphere in the home is charged with shame, pain and hurt. And kids grow up with guilt and worthlessness. When it comes to God the Father you never know where you stand, you may view God as harsh, he may punish or harm you. You don't want to get close because dads hurt you, you live afraid of God. We may also feel anger towards God because he did not protect you.
6. **The Good father** – Unconditionally pours out love, affirmation and encouragement in concrete ways, even in discipline. He is proud of you and initiates relationship. He still needs to point us to God as the only perfect father.

Ministry - RRBR

I **repent**, I change my mind, of the way I have viewed God through the lens of my experiences with my earthly father. I repent of believing lies about God the father and seeing God as

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I **renounce** the agreements that I have made with the picture of God the Father that has resulted in believing that God is

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I **forgive** my earthly parents for the ways they didn't represent God the Father and I release them from my judgement so that I can live in freedom.

I **break** these stories in the name of the true Lord Jesus off my mind and thinking, I break them off my will and emotions, I break them off my body and spirit, and I break with them generationally.

I **renew** my mind with the truth of scripture and the Father God that it reveals to me. A Father who

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I will not rely on my feelings, I will renew my mind by faith and allow my feelings to catch up. Holy Spirit if I need healing in this area of my life I receive your leading to my complete freedom and recovery of you as my Heavenly father.

I **rave** about your

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**APPENDIX C:****The Fathers Love letter – an intimate message of love from God to you.**

*My child, you may not know me, but I know everything about you. (Psalm 139:1) I know when you sit down and when you rise up. (Psalm 139:2) I am familiar with all your ways. (Psalm 139:3) Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. (Matthew 10:29-31) For you were made in my image. (Genesis 1:27) In me you live and move and have your being. (Acts 17:28) For you are my offspring. (Acts 17:28) I knew you even before you were conceived. (Jeremiah 1:4-5) I chose you when I planned creation. (Ephesians 1:11-12) You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. (Psalm 139:15-16) I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. (Acts 17:26) You are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14) I knit you together in your mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13) And brought you forth on the day you were born. (Psalm 71:6)*

*I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. (John 8:41-44) I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. (1 John 4:16) And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. (1 John 3:1) Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. (1 John 3:1) I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. (Matthew 7:11) For I am the perfect father. (Matthew 5:48) Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. (James 1:17) For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. (Matthew 6:31-33) My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11) Because I love you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)*

*My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. (Psalm 139:17-18) And I rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17) I will never stop doing good to you. (Jeremiah 32:40) For you are my treasured possession. (Exodus 19:5) I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. (Jeremiah 32:41) And I want to show you great and marvelous things. (Jeremiah 33:3) If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. (Deuteronomy 4:29) Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4) For it is I who gave you those desires. (Philippians 2:13) I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)*

*For I am your greatest encourager. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17) I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) When you are broken hearted, I am close to you. (Psalm 34:18) As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. (Isaiah 40:11) One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. (Revelation 21:3-4) And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. (Revelation 21:3-4)*

*I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. (John 17:23) For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. (John 17:26) He is the exact representation of my being. (Hebrews 1:3) He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. (Romans 8:31) And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. (1 John 4:10) I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. (Romans 8:31-32)*

*If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. (1 John 2:23) And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. (Romans 8:38-39) Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. (Luke 15:7) I have always been Father, and will always be Father. (Ephesians 3:14-15)*

*My question is... Will you be my child? (John 1:12-13)*

*I am waiting for you. (Luke 15:11-32)*