

## What is your story?

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In 2011 I moved my wife and three sons to Silicon Valley to pursue a dream. I wanted to start a new church that would engage my city with the gospel (the story of the Bible) in a new way. The day we moved, I had just three people committed to my dream and just three thousand dollars in the church bank account. I'd never felt so excited or so scared. It was a move of faith. I had no guarantees. But it all felt so right, like the next chapter in the story that God was writing for my life.

I've always sensed that my life is part of a bigger story. It's the times when I've forgotten this bigger story that I've felt the most lost in life. Life is full of seasons. Whether I've been navigating a season of excitement or suffering, it's always been my grip on what I call the "Big Story," or the Big Story's grip on me, that has helped me make sense of life's ups and downs.

Austrian philosopher Ivan Illich was once asked about the most revolutionary way to change society. He answered the question this way:

**Neither revolution nor reformation can ultimately change a society, rather you must tell a new powerful tale, one so persuasive that it sweeps away the old myths and becomes the preferred story, one so inclusive that it gathers all the bits of our past and our present into a coherent whole, one that even shines some light into our future so that we can take the next step . . . If you want to change a society, then you have to tell an alternative story.**

Most of you reading this care about seeing change happen in the people in your city. As I seek to love and touch people in my city, I've realized I must focus my energy on two main things: 1) listening to their story 2) telling them an alternative (better) story—the Big Story.

During the last two years, God has been using me more than ever before to lead people to place their faith in Jesus and experience new life in Him. It's thrilling. I'm no more equipped than you to do this. I don't have any secrets. My only "secret" is that I believe God can save anyone's life, and I work hard at listening to people's stories and telling them a better story.

If you want to change a society, then you have to tell an alternative story.

Justin Buzzard is living in the Story as a husband, father, pastor, and author. You may purchase his latest book *The Big Story: How the Bible Makes Sense Out of Your Life* at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).