

# — THE — POWER OF STORY

## Part 1

## Staying Flexible

This past Sunday Pastor Ken started a new series entitled, *The Power of Story*. During this series weeks, we invite you to look with us at the power of story to change us. Jesus' parables can help us to understand and put into practice our faith. Meet with someone at work, your family, or find a place to do it alone or with a friend. Let's grow and do life together during this series.

*Now when a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable. Luke 8:4*

1. A parable has been described as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. And no one knew how to tell a story better than Jesus. On Sunday we looked at a story that has to do with staying flexible (read Matthew 9:14-17; Isaiah 43:18-19; and Revelation 21:5). When you become a follower of Jesus, you need to be open to new ideas, methods, dreams, goals, and ways of doing things. What is your old wineskin?
2. The Bible talks a lot about the "new." It mentions a new song, heart, covenant, birth, creation, doing a new thing, and a new and living way. There is a tendency for us to lose our flexibility and to resist the new. How can we overcome the tendency to resist but instead to embrace the new? First, celebrate our past without living in the past (read Psalm 105:1-3 and Philippians 3:13-14). What helps you to keep moving and to celebrate your victories along the way?
3. Second, grow old without getting old. Routines turn into ruts, and we end up getting stuck and losing our flexibility. Keep stretching your mind, your marriage, and your walk with God by being more intentional and trying something new. Caleb was very old, but he didn't let that stop him (Numbers 13:30). What can you do to get out of a rut?
4. Lastly, decide to push past your fear and step out in faith, out of your comfort zone, when you know what you need to do or what you were born to do, and see what happens. What is it that you feel you need to step out in faith and do?

Close in prayer