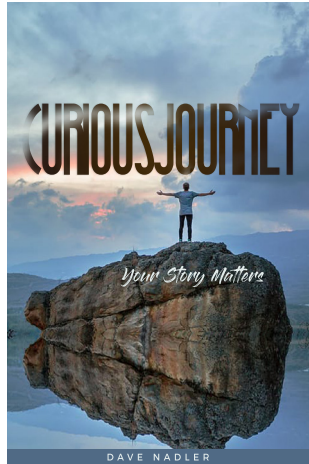


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CURIOUS JOURNEY

A big picture look at our story.

*“Eventually, all things merge into one,
and a river runs through it.*

*The river was cut by the world’s great flood
and runs over rocks from the basement of time.*

*On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops.
Under the rocks are the words,
and some of the words are theirs.*

I am haunted by waters.”

- Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It -

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CURIOUS JOURNEY

by Dave Nadler

I regret that I did not get to meet you,
because I'm sure your journey has been every
bit as curious as mine.

But then, perhaps, we will tell stories together one day!

Journey Conversations

While I will be telling my story as this book unfolds, I am most excited about the conversations this can ignite for you as you read and make use of *Curious Journey*. I have chosen core stories representative of some of the things which amplify richness in life, and provide story “starting points” for wherever you find yourself in the journey.

The *process* of life is often the most important part. In my experience, God uses process to produce greater results. Wherever you find yourself in your story, these reflections and conversation points can make use of your past and expand your future.

So, here's to courageous souls who embrace our own curious, unique journeys as we seek to achieve our goal of a satisfied mind. I have expended significant energy contemplating the various “voices” of humanity - historical religion/philosophy/science/modernity; etc. and have concluded that “the Voice” of the Living and One True God has been breathed through the seamless, woven Word of God.

At the end of each chapter you will find a series of “Journey questions” you may find helpful as you continue your interactive conversations with those whom you love and impact. While confident in my perspectives and statements, I am also, like you, continuing to learn as my personal, curious story unfolds. There are many things about life that are messy. Even if your story has unresolved elements and disappointments it does not mean that your story does not matter.

Enjoy!
Dave Nadler

The old man breathes rhythmically as he contemplates what has happened in a few short days. He had just turned 80 and the idea he would now be standing on the precipice of his last days was inevitably shocking. As his interior world absorbed what was occurring around him - the concerned visits from his children, good friends, the hospital chaplain, and his vigilant nurses - a deep recognition welled up inside of him.


He has spent the 38 hours since what appeared to be a stroke with some heart complications - if he understood what he is hearing - sorting through his perceptions and trying to focus as he breaks in and out of the medications which have been prescribed for his comfort. He cannot deny it. Everyone around him is positive, but the agitated concern is unmistakable. This must be it.

There is a randomness to his thinking which is a chaotic blend of resignation, numbness, and fear. If only he could grasp what this all meant. The concept of being “ready” had certainly been one he had considered periodically. But his life had been full and busy, and these were things he was sure he could put off until another day.

He tried to arrange everything into some sort of order. The events of his life. His mom and dad. His dear sister. His two sons. The loss of his wife. His retirement. Traveling. It was now a nondescript ball of string - wherever he pulled, something else triggered, and he was left in a revolving door of memories, thoughts, and concerns.

And so the old man clenched his hands, struggled for breath, and slipped quietly from this life into the next. His story, just like my story and yours, had reached its final day. And the tapestried elements of his life are now “etched forever into the great river of timeless raindrops.” Where all stories find their ultimate destiny.

STORY



Little captures our imagination more than a good story. What about a great movie that draws you in and inspires your replay button - hours and even days after you have returned to your own every day!? The “classics” endure because they are able to cross-culturally ignite minds over multiple generations.

A real modern tragedy exists in that we reject our own stories as “average” or “too ordinary” to matter to anyone else. We are robbed of our sense of wonder at an early age and slip into a tepid mediocrity created by special effects, highly paid actors and actresses, and million dollar ambient budgets. We believe we have nothing to offer because we have come to believe that story must be dramatic and “big” in order to matter. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Each of our stories is the REAL story, and the special mark upon each one of our lives is of huge human value. Our story is one that unfolds with uniqueness, beauty, and meaning – whether we believe it or not. It is time to become story-tellers once again. It is time to listen, laugh, cry, and experience one another as we impart our uniqueness within the isolating world around us.