

Storytelling – hitting the heart and not just the head

Rich Mendola
International Friendships, Inc. (IFI)
rmendola@ifiusa.org
richmendola.org/resources/

I. The Importance of Telling Bible Stories

- A. The way the Bible is written.
- B. The Bible was oral before written.
- C. Most of the people in the world are oral learners.
- D. Stories are remembered more easily and don't require notes.
- E. Stories are passed on more easily.
- F. Does not depend on experts.
- G. Jesus was a storyteller.
- H. Stories have the power to pierce the heart.

II. Why it is Difficult to Tell Bible Stories

- A. People would rather preach or teach.
- B. People want to add commentary as they tell the story.
- C. People may feel they know the story.

III. Preparing to Tell a Bible Story

- A. Pray.
- B. Read the story through once out loud slowly.
- C. Close your Bible and close your eyes!
- D. Read the story out loud again.
- E. Make mental markers to help you remember the story.
- F. Tell and check until you can go through accurately.
- G. Internalize the story.

IV. Telling the Story

- A. Posture.
- B. The beginning.
- C. Look at the person/people you are telling the story to.
- D. Avoid pronouns.
- E. Speak all the quotes with feeling.
- F. Express the story.
- G. Where appropriate, use actions to show the story.
- H. End the story.

V. Discussing the Story

A. Help others to learn the story – repeat and tell others.

B. Use the Inductive Bible Study method:

- Observation questions (observing through the window)
- Application questions (entering the window)

C. Observation questions

- What does each person in the story do or say? What does this reveal about this person?
- What can we learn about the person's relationship w/God?
- Does anyone in the story have a problem? How does this person deal with the problem? Do they go to God or people? If they go to God, how do they ask for help? Is the problem resolved? If so, how?
- What choices do the people in the story make? Do you see these as wise or unwise choices? What different choices could have been made? What were the results of their choices? Who in the story was impacted by their choices?
- What changes occur in the people in this story? Beliefs or attitudes? Why do they change?
- What can we learn about God's character through this story? What specific actions does God take?
- Is there anything in the story hard to understand?
- What catches your attention in the story?

D. Application questions

- Should be based on the observation questions.
- How is your relationship w/God similar or not similar to the person(s) in the story?
- Have you ever faced a similar problem in your life to the one in this story? How did you handle it? Are you facing any problems currently that this story can help with?
- When faced with a similar situation, do you ever feel like you don't have choices? What choices do you have?
- From the emotions displayed in the characters in this story, what can you learn about the ways these same emotions influence you?
- For this story, where can you learn to exercise faith, display love, and develop hope?
- Who do you most identify with in this story? Why?

VI. Practice Learning & Telling the Story

- Luke 10:38-42
- Genesis 12:10-20
- Luke 19:1-10

VII. Key Stories to Learn to Tell

- Luke 7:36-50 – The Need for Forgiveness
- Mark 2:1-12 – The Importance of Forgiveness
- Mark 7:1-23 – The Problem of the Heart
- John 3:1-21 – The New Birth
- Luke 15:11-31 – Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness, Restoration
- Luke 10:25-37 – What Mercy Looks Like
- Luke 10:38-42 – The Priority of Jesus' Words
- Matthew 26:36-46 – Gethsemane
- Matthew 27:32-54 – Death of Jesus
- Matthew 28:1-10 – Resurrection of Jesus
- Mark 4:35-41 – Dealing w/Fear and Being Overwhelmed
- Luke 19:1-10 – Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

VIII. Resources to Help You in Bible Storytelling

www.christianstorytelling.com

www.biblestorytelling.org

www.SimplyTheStory.com

www.oralbible.com