



STORYTELLING: UNLEASHING THE GOOD NEWS IN EVERYDAY LIFE!

2014 – KEY MEN INVITATIONAL

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ABOUT JASON...

- Born & Raised in Texarkana, AR
- Met Jesus as a 9-year old boy
- Married first wife in 2003... 5 kids later!
- US Army ROTC; 7 years Active Duty Logistics Officer; now serving with Texas Army National Guard
- Navs Associate Staff in 2010; Navigator Intern (Staff in Training) 2012
- Led Fort Hood Navs Military Ministry since Sep 2013...storytelling!
- Initiating Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Ministry in Fall 2014!



ABOUT TREVOR...

- Born and raised in Guthrie, OK
- Met Jesus as a Junior in College
- Newlywed... Married Nov. 30th 2013
- US Army ROTC @ Oklahoma State University; 18 months active duty as a Medical Services Officer
- Part of Lifechurch hospitality team and LifeKids ministry for 2 years during college
- Been a member of the Fort Hood Navigators since SEP 2013.. Been a storyteller ever since!!!



A picture's worth a thousand words...



...what's the story worth?

The background is a solid teal color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines of varying lengths and small circles at the ends.

STORYTELLING MYTHS

&

REASONS TO LEARN/PRACTICE THE SKILL OF STORYTELLING TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL

Adapted from “Why Communicate the Gospel through Stories?” by
Tom A. Steffen in *Perspectives on the world Christian movement*, Winter & Hawthorne

MYTHS REGARDING STORYTELLING

- Stories are only for children
- Stories are only for entertainment
- Adults prefer sophisticated, objective, propositional thinking
- Character derives from dogmas, creeds, and theology
- Storytelling is a waste of time in that it fails to get to the more meaty issues

SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

1. *UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION STYLE*

- Parent – to – Kids
- Coach – to - Team
- Supervisor – to – Employees
- Teacher – to – Students
- Friend – to – Friend
- Professional
- Unskilled Laborer
- Broken / Hurt / Depressed
- Joyful
- Public / Private Places

...from one place to the next, regardless of external circumstances – Stories are heard
EVERYWHERE!

SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

2. MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION PREFER THE CONCRETE MODE OF LEARNING

- Concrete (stories, symbols, etc.) vs. Abstract (propositional thinking, philosophy, etc.)
- Illiterate and semi-literate people likely outnumber those who can read/write.
- Americans' preferences are changing
 - TV (short sound bites, brief imagery exposures)
 - Smart Phones

SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

3. *STORIES CONNECT OUR IMAGINATION & EMOTIONS*

- Touching the mind and heart simultaneously; weaving together fact and feeling
- Stories provide an open-ended journey
- Provocation of feelings associated with stories
 - Listeners (participants) not only hear the story, through their imagination they vicariously enter the experience

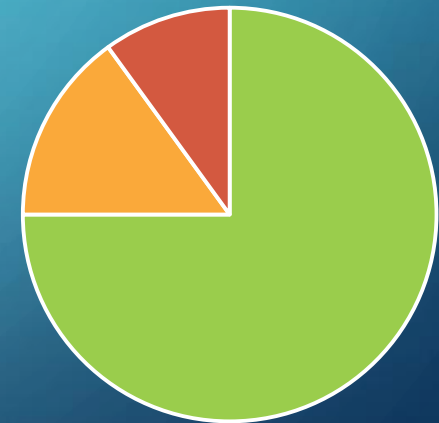
SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

4. *APPROXIMATELY 75% OF THE BIBLE IS STORY*

- Stories in the Bible serve as mirrors...
 - Reflecting our perspective of life
 - Reflecting our perspective of God
- Where do we spend the majority of our time in the Bible?
- Is it significant that God communicated the majority of His message to the world through story?

Biblical Literary Style

■ Narrative (Story) ■ Poetry ■ Thought-Organized



SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

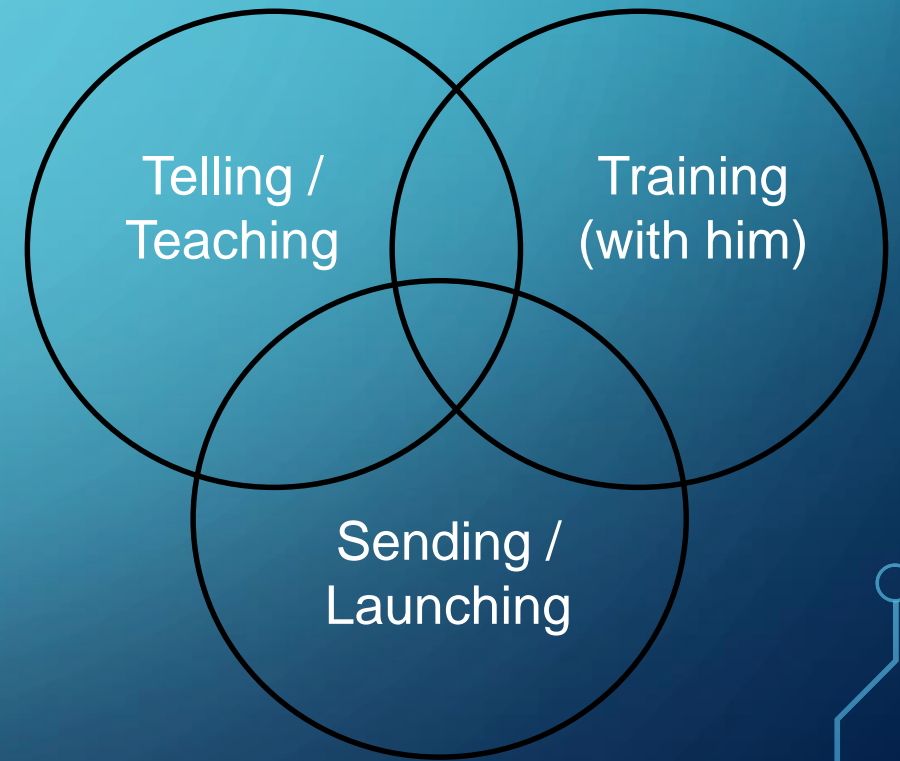
5. EVERY MAJOR RELIGION USES STORIES TO SOCIALIZE ITS YOUNG, CONVERT POTENTIAL FOLLOWERS, AND INDOCTRINATE MEMBERS

- Stories can expand or limit participants / membership.
- Different points of emphasis for different people
 - Unbelieving Jews hear of cultural heroes (Acts 13:13-43)
 - Unbelieving Gentiles hear of God's power in creation (Acts 14:8-18; 17:16-34)
 - Maturing believers hear same stories; different emphasis
- Stories provide an inoffensive, non-threatening way of challenging one's basic beliefs and behavior.

SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

6. *STORIES CREATE STORYTELLERS (INSTANT EVANGELISTS!)*

- People find it easy to repeat a good story
- Told stories get retold!



Evangelize * Establish * Equip * Engage (send)

SEVEN REASONS for Gospel Storytelling

7. *JESUS TAUGHT WITH STORIES*

- Jesus never wrote a systematic theology book, but He was teaching theology wherever He went!
- Parables oftentimes introduced people to new concepts
- Challenged normal traditions
- Introduced a new image of God

THE SUPREME GOAL OF GOSPEL STORYTELLING

- COMMUNICATING the finished story of Jesus Christ and CONNECTING it to the target audience's unfinished story...
- BRIDGING the Gospel – LIFE ON LIFE discipleship
- What is the difference in CONVERSING the Gospel and PROCLAIMING it?

“WATCH THIS DEMONSTRATION...”

STORY – “Jesus Calms the Storm”

- What is the central theme?
- What are the main points / building blocks?
- What should my friend understand about Jesus?

PRACTICE... PRACTICE... PRACTICE!

Read the story and practice re-telling:

- Luke 19:1-10

- What is the central theme?
- What are the main points / building blocks?
- What should my friend understand about Jesus?

ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

- Individual vs. Group Storytelling
- **HEAD** – What are the **facts**? What is the information being presented?
- **HEART** – What are the **emotions**? How did the main characters in the story feel? How does it make you feel? Who are you most like / dislike? Why?
- **HANDS** – What is your **response**? What does God want you to do with this story?

THE THREE-THIRDS PROCESS

FIRST third (look back)

- 1. Pastoral Care**
 - “How are you doing?”
- 2. Worship**
- 3. Accountability**
 - Follow
 - Fish
- 4. Vision Casting**

SECOND third (look up)

- 5. New Lesson**
 - Short-term, reproducible discipleship lessons
 - Then, long-term, self-feeding inductive Bible studies.

(Head – Heart – Hands)

FINAL third (look ahead)

- 6. Practice**
 - new lesson
- 7. Set Goals & Pray**
 - specific
 - realistic; attainable
 - measurable

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- T4T – A Discipleship Re-Revolution, Steve Smith & Ying Kai
- www.juio.net – “Jesus Up-In-Out Network”
- www.biblestorytelling.org

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