

HOW TO PRESENT A BIBBLE STORY

BIBLICAL - PROVEN - REPRODUCIBLE

How To Present A Bible Story

This article provides concise guidelines for presenting the Bible in story form. It is designed for use with Bible stories provided by Fox Ministries, Inc. (for more free downloads see www.FoxMinistries.org)

What is Bible Storying?

Bible Storying is simply describing the events in the Bible just as they happened. It is telling the Bible in story form.

It is teaching the Bible through the stories of Scripture. Stories are easy to remember. They are easy to pass along. Stories are powerful.

Missionaries working among oral cultures with no written language were the first to use this method. It is now widely used around the world and is best known for its reproducibility. It is gaining popularity in the U.S., even among highly literate people.

Why Use Bible Storying?

There are three important advantages that make Bible Storying an excellent choice for any small group Bible study.

- Bible Storying is biblical.
- Bible Storying has a proven track record.
- Bible Storying is easily reproduced.

How To Present a Bible Story

The Bible is communicated by simply telling the events of the Bible in story form. Accuracy is important and therefore the story is told just as it is presented in the Bible. Nothing is added, and all the important information is included. When the Bible presents the same story in more than one location or text, the story is told using all available information in order to relate the most complete biblical account.

The format of the stories from the Fox Ministries website is presented from the storyteller's point of view. The story should be told from memory, but not memorized verbatim. It is often helpful to think of the story as a video that plays in your head. You simply describe the events as they happen.

Be careful to only tell what the Bible says and not add to it or interpret what it means. Let the Bible speak for itself and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to work. Remember, Bible stories do not need to be explained. The Bible describes itself as living and effective:

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 HCSB)

Questions are provided and designed to allow participants to wrestle openly with biblical truths. The facilitator is encouraged to use the questions to encourage dialog, not to direct or control the conversation. Remember, the power is in the Bible story, not the skill or eloquence of the storyteller.

Four Keys:

1. Accuracy is important – tell only what the Bible says
2. Tell the story from memory – but not memorized verbatim
3. Do not interpret or elaborate – Let the Bible speak
4. Trust the Holy Spirit – allow God to work in the dialog and discussion

Prepare For Reproduction:

Retelling the story is important review for the participants and begins to prepare them to tell the story to others. It is the first step in preparing for reproduction.

One of the strengths of Bible Storying is its reproducibility. Anyone can tell a Bible story. One important measure of success is when participants tell the story to others.

Participants may be assigned one or more Bible stories to “story” to the group. This reinforces two important principles: 1) the power is in the Bible, not the skill or eloquence of the storyteller; and 2) Bible stories are to be shared with others. This sharing of leadership empowers others and encourages leadership development through hands-on experience.

Encourage group members to identify individuals with whom they can tell these Bible stories. This adds specific individuals or groups with whom they can pass along the Bible. These might include: friends, neighbors, children (especially their own children or grandchildren), co-workers, or other individuals or groups.

Each Bible Study section follows a simple outline.

- **Background:** This section provides context and relevant cultural information. For example, this section may relate this event to other stories and/or the broader biblical history. It may explain a biblical saying or expression used in the story. The background does not explain the story or interpret its meaning.

- **Story from the Bible:** The Bible story should be told for memory. Begin with a clear transition that separates the background from the Bible story. A simple sentence is recommended to indicate the beginning and end of biblical content. For example: "This is the story from the Bible." or "This is what the Bible says." and "This concludes the story from the Bible." provide clear transitions.
- **Retelling the Story:** The participants should retell the story with as little guidance as needed. Encourage them to include only what is in the Bible. The primary objectives are to review the story and empower the participants to tell the story outside the current group.
- **Dialog and Discussion:** The example or sample questions provided should be adapted to the unique needs of each group. Participants internalize the biblical truths as they talk about the biblical events. Trust the Holy Spirit to work as participants dialog. As the leader, use your influence sparingly. Experienced teachers often need to resist the temptation to revert back to teaching styles that explain and interpret the Bible. The Bible is God's Word and does not need our help.
- **Prayer:** Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant's insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.

Other hints and ideas:

- The Bible is the source of each story. This fact can be reinforced by having a Bible open on the table in front of you or in your lap. The Bible becomes a visual reinforcement.
- **Pronunciation hints:**
 - Listen to the Bible online or via an app on your phone, tablet or other device in order to hear the pronunciation of difficult names and places.
 - Website: BibleGateway.com
 - App: YouVersion
 - Biblical pronunciation guides
 - Website: Net Ministries
<http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm#>
 - Website: Search "Bible pronunciation guide" or "biblical pronunciation"