

Learning Bible Stories

I. CRAFTING the story

- a. Rewrite the story in fewer words with simplified, familiar language
- b. Consider using stories already crafted by John Walsh (www.BibleTelling.org)

II. LEARNING the story

- a. Divide the story into sections. Smaller sections are easier to learn.
- b. Read the Bible account in several translations.
- c. Limit the number of new names to 3 or 4. You don't have to count common names like Jesus, Abraham, Jerusalem, etc.
- d. Color-code quotes and names.
- e. Create a story "cheat sheet" -- select the type that fits you best:
 - i. draw stick-figures for each section of the story (Draw and Tell)
 - ii. create a mental room and place the pieces of the story in it (Walk and Tell)
 - iii. use hand gestures that flow—especially for any type of list
- f. Practice the story using over-dramatization—large muscle movement, facial expressions, different voices. But do not use these when telling the story to others.
- g. Practice telling the story 5 times—to 5 different people/groups.

III. TELLING the story

- a. Don't memorize—picture the story and tell what you see.
- b. Don't panic before telling—simply review your cheat sheet before telling your story.
- c. Don't introduce yourself or the story.
- d. Don't give an application.
- e. Don't embellish or preach.
- f. Just tell what happened as if you were at the scene and saw it

For Those Who Want to EXCEL at BibleTelling

1. Find/develop your own method for learning stories.
2. Experience the power of a Bible story simply told.
 - a. Don't embellish it or memorize it
 - b. Realize the power is in the story, not the teller
 - c. Know the teller does not control the impact on the listener
3. Gain a tolerance for telling stories poorly (initially).
 - a. Overcome the fear that you are mishandling God's word
 - b. Telling the story motivates people to read the story in the Bible
 - c. Overcome fear of not being a good-enough storyteller
4. Recruit 5 designated listeners—and practice telling each story to them separately.
5. Commit to an activity or ministry that requires telling Bible stories.