

Simply The Story

A tool to study and share Scripture.

An oral method that communicates to literate and illiterate alike.

An STS Storyteller can teach individual stories to others.
but...

Simply The Story workshops are one of the main ways people learn all of the preparation and presentation skills AND learn how to teach others.

Workshops provide an in-depth training in exploring biblical truths using Bible stories and how to lead group discussion. STS distinctives accomplished through workshops are seen in two major areas:

- **STS teaches how to do in-depth preparation and presentation of Scripture using oral methods.**
- **STS trains newly equipped practitioners to train others.**

In 17 teaching-hours, people new to STS learn these skills in a one-instructor to three-attendee workshop ratio and become Assistant Instructors (AI's). Next, these AI's learn how to train more new people during 18 teaching-hours. All attendees become STS storytelling practitioners. TGSP encourages them to use STS and share this skill with others.



Locals are entrusted with making their own selections for the “told” stories. Certification as instructors can come after helping in 2-4 workshops.

TGSP records and formats multiple Bible stories and *God's Story: From Creation to Eternity* onto solar-powered audio players so non-literates can go home from STS with Scripture. *God's Story's* 80 minutes of Bible stories is 2/3's Old Testament, so it lays an ideal foundation for all the Bible stories attendees learn. Oral Bible Schools provide a forum to learn more stories.

Emphasis in STS is placed on listening well to a story and full exploration of its contents, rather than focusing on pre-determined theme of a selected story. As listeners respond to what they hear, lives are changed. STS sees “All Scripture...is profitable...” During the story discussion, the Holy Spirit selects themes that speak to and through individual participants.

STS, How It Works: First, storytellers present a Bible story in conversational style. Accuracy is stressed! All of the information in the story is included. If explanation or contextualization is needed to help listeners understand a story, then that information is given in a very short introduction. Dramatic delivery includes appropriate expressing of dialog and subtle actions that show the story. All actions and voice inflection must be justified by the narrative.

Volunteers retell the story. Then a 3rd “telling,” using group participation, discretely and indirectly corrects any errors made by the volunteers. This telling cements the story correctly in listeners' minds, gently conditioning participants to more freely offer their thoughts aloud.

Storytellers ask their carefully prepared questions to invite discovery of various spiritual observations. Even a short story of five verses may contain ten or more observations. Listeners

explore characters' situations, actions, and words, and verbalize what they discover "spiritually" about those in the story.

Listeners start to see individuals in the story as live people, making real choices; consequences of those choices are discussed. God's character is discussed. Keeping discussion to one Bible story allows diverse participants such as those with extensive theological education, seekers and non-literates to participate alongside of each other. Opinions are shared, but the text alone determines truth.

Questions then focus on leading participants to make personal application of the spiritual observations they discovered earlier. Dialog is dynamic. In fact, listeners often bring out insights new to the storyteller! Through story and prompted personal discovery of biblical truths, listeners' heads connect to their hearts.

"Former goals become natural outcomes." Users of STS testify of tremendous growth in their own lives. The deepening of their Bible understanding and added skills to make personal application of biblical truths empowers the STS users. Frontline workers, involved in outreach to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Animists, Cultural Christians and those in Judaism—all report salvations and church plants such as they had never experienced or imagined.

Bilingual workers report how their new biblical depth spurs and enables them to go to unreached people groups (UPGs) of their regions and effectively evangelize and disciple. In regions where carrying a Bible could mean jail time or death to evangelists, having Bible stories in their "heart pockets" enables workers to continue and survive.

An extensive STS handbook supplements workshop information. See [Resources](#) link on site for handbook and other training material for STS. Note that the Practitioner Audio Training (PAT) is used by those who prefer audio information, or who cannot attend a workshop. As well, PAT is a powerful learning supplement for those who attend a workshop and want to solidify and practice more in depth what they learned in the workshop.

Workshop Options

One day, or part of a day, workshops cast the vision for STS and demonstrations show the uniqueness of STS.

Two & three day workshops equip attendees as "practitioners" ready to tell Bible stories and teach discussion style. Attendees discover the art of finding spiritual treasures (observations and personal applications within a story.) As well, they learn to design questions that introduce those treasures to others through discussion.

Practice afterwards in ones own environment can fine tune these skills.

The 5-day, one-stop workshop casts the vision and creates practitioners in 17 hours. Then another 18 practitioner training is done and the providing some attendees an opportunity to use their newly acquired practitioner skills to teach and move toward STS instructor certification.

5-day workshops can be done Monday-Friday or Tuesday through Saturday. Another option is the same workshop hours can be covered in a "Save the Job" schedule. That is 2 full days on Friday and Saturday, then Sunday afternoon and Monday, Tues and Wed evenings. Only those who join the Instructor training track miss any work and that is only one day missed. The 19-hour Practitioner track begins Sat at 3:00 pm.

For more information info@SimplyTheStory.org or www.SimplyTheStory.org