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story4all

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Youth - Children
Out of Babe’s Mouth: Jonah by 4-year old

Daniel is lively and silly like a four-year old should be. But as well, his family sees Daniel as having a special spirit. His father, often referred to as Dad, has a special bond with Daniel and will often read to him from the Bible. This is a film about how Daniel came to be so conversant with the story of Jonah.

Awhile back, Dad decided to ask Daniel to tell the story back to him, and what you see in this film is the result. The family had decided to focus specifically on the story of Jonah, and Dad had allowed Daniel to participate from a young age in discussions about the story.

Could other fathers and mothers and grandparents follow this example and seed into the lives of the precious little ones? You decide for yourself.

You may notice that this 4-year old boy tells the complete story of Jonah chapter 1 and 3 verses from chapter 2. - 20 verses! Daniel’s dad explained to us that that at first he had been reading to Daniel out of a Children’s Bible. The dad said, “I prefer to read to Daniel out of the full Bible. He stated, “I want Daniel to learn the complete story and relearn information as the words from the children’s version had been imprinted on my mind when I was young.”

So this dad decided he really preferred to read to Daniel out of the full Bible. He stated, “I want Daniel to learn the complete story and relearn information as the words from the children’s version had been imprinted on my mind when I was young.”

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This was one dad’s decision … but perhaps the reasons for this dad’s decision parallel our reasons in STS for teaching villagers and the uneducated complete, unedited Bible stories?

8-Year Old Tells Bible Story and Gives Deep Insights

My Objective, Lost & Found

A young Thai youth worker finished the second day of the training and had evidently had enough exposure to STS to put his finger on what makes it different from other approaches.
He summarized what he had experienced before the whole group by saying, "I am quite used to preparing lesson objectives, and I am very sure my listeners don't miss it. However, fairly soon after teaching a lesson, my listeners don't seem to remember it.

With STS there is always a clear objective that runs parallel to my typical objectives, but the big difference is that I create a sense of buy-in and interest, and as a result they have long range retention of what I wanted to teach."

Note: he spent a lot of effort in trying to make sure he explained his objective and he did a good job of it.

Youth Worker in Thailand

Testimonies of Change

A youth pastor from Michigan told us on the phone. “I went home from the workshop and that Sunday, I did a story, one I had selected for the lesson. The kids participated in a way that I was not used to. They didn’t participate, they were involved. It was lively!

“We are doing a youth retreat in a few weeks and I plan to use STS story style of teaching there. This STS is really useful for youth.

“I hope to receive more training in the future so that I can effectively train others.”

R. MI, USA

Mental Breakthrough

“I have really enjoyed learning Simply the Story. It has really impacted my life in a huge way.

“Through the stories, God has taught me several important lessons that I know He has been trying to show me for a long time. They have impacted my life in many ways. STS has opened my eyes to the value of stories in my ministry.

“I also enjoy STS because it is conducive to all ages. As a teenager, I am sometimes turned off by lectures or seminars. But I have found that STS is a great way to share the gospel through conversational, everyday language that engages everyone.

“I am so glad that God brought STS into my life, and I hope to continue using it with those I meet.”

Workshop attendee, Age 17 GA, USA
I Think of STS Story Principles

“STS has really enhanced my personal study of the Bible. Instead of reading Bible stories as they have been told ‘the old way,’ I find myself looking for new treasures in the stories.

“When I first experienced STS, it was amazing to me how much I did not know about the “common” stories of the Bible. Even during the establishment phase, when we were hearing and discussing the same story more than once, I have so far always found something new or good in the discussion.

“Now, whenever anyone shares a part of the Bible, I mentally ask myself STS type questions about the text. Additionally, I try to think of possible applications to my own life, and I ask myself STS questions such as, “What other choices do I have? What will be the impact of my choice?”

“STS has helped me to have a more clear perception of the Bible and it has also encouraged me to study my Bible in a new way. I feel that the Bible is not just a book of history, but a book which includes experiences and life lessons from people of all eras. I also feel that the Bible is a ‘living’ book, which can be applied in our daily life.

[15 Year old girl] GA, USA

Youth to Youth: Can’t Happen!

“There was this English missionary who had been working in Thailand in a youth facility for delinquents. He and a Thai pastor were discipling about seven of these ex-street boys, who were in the process of being trained in the STS method.

“These rowdy ex-street boys, a mixture of Thai and tribals, at first joked around and disrupted the training. But all the time they were absorbing the stories.

“We ended on a Friday, and on Saturday they were scheduled to give their regular presentation at the facility. The English missionary was not going to do the program, that their new street youth would be running it.

"When the English missionary told the Thai pastor that he was not going to do the program, that their new street youth would be doing the program, the pastor said, ‘I know. They do the music. But who is speaking?’

“‘They are. I told you!’ So much to the pastor’s shock, the boys led.

"It was a large group, maybe over 50. Their presentation was very impressive and surprised the missionary and really surprised the pastor!

“One listener during application time... was very open and transparent and said ‘I am like this bent over woman. I have a lifestyle and demonic involvement and I now see that Jesus can set me free.’ The impact throughout was good, like that.

"The really funny part was the reaction of the Thai Christian worker who had been discipling these youth. "What a contrast to the typical message the missionary usually brought."

This Christian worker was also surprised at the response of the crowd to their STS type presentation. He

Added stories on Youth-Children, Children-Youth, My Time in Juvenile Lockup, Pick Your Spot