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Church - Pastors

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story4all

Youth - Children
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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 parents value creating an environment that celebrates his unique nature. Thus, they often create stories that involve Daniel and his friends, using the Bible as a source of inspiration.

Awhile back, Dad decided to ask Daniel to tell the story back to him, and what you see in this film is the result. Daniel is on a mission to engage his audience, and he does so by sharing the story of Jonah with them. The film captures Daniel’s interpretation of the story of Jonah, as he understands it. It’s a fascinating look at how a young child interprets the Bible and communicates its message.

Could other fathers and mothers follow this example and seed into the lives of the precious little ones? Of course, and some are doing that. May many more see the value of investing in the very young while their clay is soft.

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 want Daniel to learn 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 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?

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**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... 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... themselves seals it to their hearts and minds 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..."

"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..."

"I also enjoy STS because it is conducive to all ages. As a teenager, I am sometimes turned off by lecture..."

"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 in the past, 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 when I reread the same stories, I have found something new or good in each discussion.

“Now, whenever anyone shares a part of the Bible, I mentally ask myself STS type questions about the text. Additionally, I begin to see new opportunities to apply the stories to my own life, and I ask myself STS type 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. Instead of just reading the Bible, I now often use the Bible stories as a springboard for conversation and discussion with others in a way that will not be discouraging, but instead will be thought-provoking and most likely life-changing.”

[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 partner had been discipling some of the street kids and brought them to our 4-day STS workshop.

“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 for the other kids. The English missionary told the pastor that he was not going to do the program, that their new street youth would be doing leading, 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 pastor!

“One listener during application time... was very open and transparent and said ‘I am like this bent over woman. I have a troubled 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 (but hadn’t seen much of their peers in a delinquent facility, to young people who through story were willing to share in front of that group.

“This Christian worker was also surprised at the response of the crowd to their STS type presentation. He saw a clear contrast to the typical message the missionary usually brought.”