Outreaches

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Youth - Children
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Youth - Children

Prisons, Planes, Homes, and Soccer Fields

Regardless of Surroundings, Heart Needs are the Same.

A Better Story
You know how my husband and I attended that STS workshop in March. When we came back we started working with one other couple, going through the Ministry That Multiplies: Practitioner Guide. This is what happened.

When we all felt pretty comfortable telling stories, we decided to invite our Muslim friend to join us (she was the original catalyst for us looking into oral methods of discipleship since traditional Bible studies did not interest her at all).

We've been completely stunned at how she's taken to it. She's pulling out treasures that we've missed. She says that ... but we're seeing some Koranic stories replaced by a "better story" before our eyes. In short, we are very excited!

However, we're realizing that we need more training. Using STS has raised many more questions, and we

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**My Time in Juvenile Lockup**

When the first door slammed shut, I knew then escape would be difficult. A few metal doors later, we entered the only room the boys could be in.

All but one of the teens were gang members. From the looks on the boys' faces, I guessed that "Bible Night" was not a time for them to hear God's Word, rather it was just another opportunity to get out of their cells. I told the story of the One Leper from Mark 1:40-45.

After a boy retold the story as best as he could remember, I led the young men through the story once more, using easy to answer questions. Now they all knew the story well.

I asked the boys questions that allowed them to start digging deeply into this story. We went through the story slowly, ... the impact of the choices made, who was affected and what the story showed us about everyone in the story, and about God.

I could have either ignored him as a disruption or have directly answered his question, as is the usual response when one is asked a question.

However, I felt led to ask the other boys what they thought. I asked, 'Is Jesus concerned with the outside or the inside of the man with leprosy? What does the story tell us?'

After some discussion, the boys said that because Jesus said, "I want to..." (in response to the leper's statement in Mark)... "wanted" to make the man clean. And they noticed that Jesus even touched the leper, the leper's ugly, diseased outside.

We also discussed the leper's choice to disobey Jesus, who was affected by the leper's choice and how...
Mid-way through the discussion, a young man stood to leave. He explained, "I really want to stay, but I need to go." The security guard, who had been pacing in the background during most of the Bible study, called to the boy, "You can stay." After a great time of discovery in that Bible story, we started talking about what the boys found in the story and how it applied to their lives.

The Christians who regularly teach and preach the Word in this prison couldn't believe the discussion they were hearing. I asked the young men how their choices affected others. One boy said, 'I never saw my dad cry til I was put in prison." Another said, "My brother followed me into the gang." I asked, "What's going to happen to him?" The juvenile offender responded that his little brother would either die or end up in prison like him. "Is that what you want?" I continued. "No."

Several boys shared from their hearts about the effects of their choices. We talked about how to make good choices and if making good choices was easy. That single hour turned out to be too short to allow all of the boys to share. By the end, it was clear that the Bible story had deeply affected them.

Afterwards the ministry workers and I gathered in the parking lot. The workers witnessed the changes in the young men as we talked about what they had just seen. The workers told me, "We have never seen the boys respond like that before!"

Andowan CA, USA

Family Outreach

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalms 37:4.

I have always loved children, athletics and the Lord. God has been gracious to allow me to play sports my whole life and be involved with youth. Just as there are seasons in sports, there are seasons in life. Every season is an opportunity to improve and compete. There are always obstacles, lessons, rewards, risks, injuries, fears and joys to be had. To the avid athlete, the sacrifice is always worth it. God has helped me to instruct with knowledge and passion in the various disciplines. When the Godly traits of compassion, patience, vision, boldness, creativity, joy, forgiveness, and honesty are tangibly demonstrated, team parties and travel provide wonderful opportunities to speak of the Creator and source of our strength and virtue.

Here is an example from Naomi, thirteen years old. Naomi was juggling the soccer ball with various girls from the soccer team. When it was time to go, three girls ran up to me to tell me some good news. "Coach Paul! We prayed with Naomi!"

"Well," I said, "That's great. What did you pray about?"
"Naomi told us about Heaven and Hell," they rushed excitedly, "and we asked Jesus to save us!"

"That's great!" I shared.

One girl said, "Can we hear another Bible story like the one you told us last year?" In 2009 we had been focusing on the story in Luke 5. They remembered that story about Peter and the great catch of fish that Jesus provided.

"Well," I answered, "Let's sit down right here in front of the goal and learn another story." I told them of Jairus and his daughter and how Jesus had healed her.

Recently, I listened in on one of the team's prayers. Strangely, it came from a girl who doesn't talk much. I wanted to cry. How precious was her heart! What will this do for her faith, boldness and testimony as she matures?

Our team won the championship! I told my children afterwards that the victory and medals were great, but the greatest victory was seeing one person come to Christ! It's not the World Cup that matters. I reminded them. "One person coming to Christ, one Christian walking in obedience is better than the World Cup!"

If you want more information about how STS is being used by Paul or this area of ministry, email us and we will forward your request. You need to put the subject line "Request to connect with Paul."
Isn't God precious,? I thought to myself!

Hans again tried to avoid dealing with spiritual issues. On the plane he was struggling with the issue of saying for Hans said it was a wonderful plan for him!

Since this encounter, we've been praying for Hans. We've been praying for him!

I loved using the story in one-on-one counseling—on a PLANE this time.

I've already been using it many times as I council on the phone!

All VERY exciting.
Caryl UK/USA

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Share Your Creative Ideas

The letters we receive on creative ways to use Bible stories in outreaches using STS Bible stories are incredible.

We plan to post more reports on this page. Our volunteer staff uploads reports as quickly as possible!

By the way, if you have some interesting ways that you have used STS stories to reach out to others, do email us or Phone 951-658-1619.

If you are struggling in some way to use Bible stories effectively and naturally, write or phone us and we will pray with you or discuss suggestions of how to use the Bible stories.

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Go to home page, Pick Your Spot for many more examples of witnessing. Also see
Sample Conversational Use of STS
Family Outreach
Practicals