Outreaches

**Uses & Users:**

- Academic
- Bible Translators
- Church - Pastors
- Devotions
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Missions
Outreaches

Radio-Web Casts

Short Term Trips

story4all

Youth - Children
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Uses & Users:

Academic

Bible Translators

Church - Pastors
Prisons, Planes, Homes, and Soccer Fields

Regardless of Surroundings, Heart Needs are the Same.

A Better Story
Outreaches

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 ...

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

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 in the building with more than 12 to 18 years old sat waiting for the one-hour evening, Bible study to begin. I met them for the first time that night.

All but one of the teens were gang members. From the looks on the boys' faces, I guessed that "Bible Night" was not a place where they would 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, discussing the impact of the choices made, who was affected and what the story showed us about everyone in the story, and about God.

In the beginning a few boys made comments and asked questions that were strategically designed to distract us from the study of God's Word. One boy announced, "I just tattooed 666 on my forehead. Will God accept me?"

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 ..." (in response to the leper's statement in ... "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 leave in a hurry.

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 that was taking place. I asked the young men how their choices affected others. One boy said, 'I never saw my dad cry til I was 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. 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. 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. "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.

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

If you want more information about STS 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." 

Jet Plane to Eternity or Up a Tree

The following report came from a ministry leader who is an experienced speaker and author. She had attended one, five-day...en XY

Outreaches can be pre-planned or they can be spontaneous like this next report ...

On the journey too the Lord gave more opportunity to use a story. He got me talking to an Austrian, Hans [not real name for privacy], who had flown in from Zurich that morning to join the Logos Hope. He was coming to Ireland to see if he, his wife and family, should serve on the ship for a two year period.

While on the plane, the Lord had me tell Hans a story, Zacchaeus. Then as we talked though the story, I asked Hans how he'd react to Jesus' invitation to go to Hans' home.

I thought to myself. Did Hans want to see Jesus as much as Zacchaeus did wanted to see Jesus? Would Hans, a man of prestige similar to Zacchaeus, rush to receive Jesus warmly?

I asked Hans, "Would you too do those things to see Jesus?"

Hans hesitated to commit, arguing that there were language barriers between us, differences in this point or that point.

But we persisted within the story. It just seemed to me to be an interesting comparison of situations, of Hans who was looking to see, prepared to serve on the ship, but who was not sure of his personal relationship with Jesus.

"Hmm, I think I know Him," Hans said. Keeping behind Zacchaeus within the story made it possible for Hans to join in this conversation, but then his own consideration of personal application gave him much to think about.

After we landed, my host kindly asked if he could take Hans to the Logos Hope; of course Hans was thrilled at the invitation.

Ironically, the question the Lord prompted Clifford (my host) to ask was, "Tell us of your personal story of how you met the Lord and know Him?"
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 that he wasn't sure if he knew his wife personally. He was saying for Hans to God's wonderful plan for him!

Since this encounter, we've been praying for Hans and his time on the Logos Hope.

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 counsel on the phone!

All VERY exciting.
Caryl UK/USA

Share Your Creative Ideas

The letters we receive on creative ways to use Bible stories in outreaches are many. Look for other reports on this site that show ways people use STS. The links on the right side of the website, "Pick Your Spot," tell many ways people are using STS Bible stories all over the world in a wide array of different circumstances.

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 send them to us. Your story could bless others and give them ideas.

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

delete Caryl UK/USA

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

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