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Bible Story Telling and Purposeful Questions Encourage Non-Literates and Literates...
In September 2006, Simply The Story (STS) was born. The leaders of The God’s Story Project developed this training of trainers program. Built on the foundation of “storying,” STS added the dynamic of training storytellers to dig deeply into a Bible story and to discover spiritual truths for themselves.

Another major distinctive of STS is that we train people of all socio-economic, cultural and educational backgrounds to teach others through discussion. Literate and non-literate STS practitioners know how to tell accurate Bible stories in an interesting manner. They also know how to form wise, gentle questions that allow others to discover spiritual truth and personal applications for themselves.

To see the latent abilities of non-literates surface as they use critical thinking skills to discover and lead others is a joy to behold.
The touching testimonies of highly literate people, even ones in ministry, encourage all of the STS instructors.

A missionary to South America told us after an STS workshop, “For 38 years, my husband has tried to get me to teach the ladies, but I said ‘No, I cannot teach.’

But I found out here with STS that I can tell stories and I can talk about them. I will now teach!”

“Look At My Eyes”
Interestingly, if you want to share a Bible story in an informal setting, maybe even with a stranger, you could ask:

- Which approach is more personal?
- Which approach requires material to be in hand?
- Which shows that the story has a personal meaning to you?
- Which approach has the least risk of strangers not listening because it may not be coming from their holy book?
- Which approach keeps the ongoing interchange most personal?

We teach a natural conversational witnessing style in STS. After learning how to use stories this way, we provide opportunity to practice them, first in a safe workshop environment and then in “practicals” outside of the workshop.

We encourage and guide people in the skill of listening well as they converse with people in the marketplace. At this point in a conversation, if you then began to read to people out of the Bible, actions would be gone.

The wife of a mission leader told us that she was called upon to speak at a village named Hetuada in Nepal.
“One older woman went home and told stories that she had learned to her grandson. She later reported back to us that her grandson said, ‘I love it when you look at my eyes and tell me a story and do not read it.’”

They Remembered, But It Was Unexpected!

Last summer, I had a couple of neighbor boys over. Out in our driveway, I told them the Bible story, “Jesus Stills the Storm.” I told it, not read it, and told it with motions and voice intonations. These boys were 7 and 8 years old. Several days later, I had the same boys over. They were sitting on the couch. I asked them to close their eyes, and then I began to read the “Jesus Stills the Storm” story. I read it slowly and distinctly.

Rick. CO, USA

[Both stories had been heard by the boys. One would think that the shorter story just read to them (which was the story I told them the first time) would be more memorable than the story I told them in detail. However, it was the longer story that they remembered. In this case, the longer story that was presented in a non-read or more oral way (with the story being told rather than read) was what the boys remembered. The method of Scripture presentation made the difference.

Through workshops, audio training, oral Bible schools, radio storytelling and extension course classes, we empower people to evangelize and disciple in a natural oral style.

On this site, and particularly on the sub links from this page, you will see explanations of the need for STS, its description, results and origin, and how STS methods fit biblical and oral strategy.

Wonderfully, many Christian denominations and ministries are discovering this need for oral strategies. This discovery involves recognizing the vital importance of using whole Bible stories to reach oral learners.

We thank you for investigating STS. Each group using story has specific goals and distinctives. We encourage you to look into some of the other methods of learning and delivering Bible stories to find out what best suits your needs and call.