Training Info:

Workshops

Oral Schools

Practitioner Audio

Certify Leaders

After A Workshop

Multiplication Strategies
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Practitioner Audio Training (PAT)

The Need for PAT

For two years we sought the Lord on
how to respond to a ministry that reaches 150,000 children weekly in seven African countries.

This organization sent leaders and children to an Africa STS workshop.

The founders of that organization liked the content and principles of STS and would like to use STS. They stated, “We would like to send our local leaders to workshops to learn STS, but a practical obstacle exists. We have 3,000 leaders to train who are scattered in seven countries and most do not have the means to travel.”

We knew what this ministry needed would have to be a low cost, but effective audio training. For several years we prayed over what style this material would take.

"We have 8,000 small groups"

Another organization that reaches 300,000 homes daily sent their CEO and some leaders to several STS workshops. They asked what the potential for using STS with groups was.

Large Ministries and Organizations

Additionally, other large ministries and organizations in the US and abroad have asked for STS training,
The quantity of people certified as STS instructors is rapidly rising. But we are finding that even when ministry is able to send attendees to workshops, we do not have enough instructors to staff the workshops!

Our African leadership says, “We are currently able to respond and send teams to about 10% of the requests for Africa, even with our multiple teams in the field.

In India, the need is much the same. From the US we are responding to maybe 50% of the overall requests.

Worldwide in 2010, probably 400 first-tier workshops were held. "First tier" workshops are those led by our inner core of instructors who we have directly trained. These instructors mostly go to new locations and countries to plant STS.

**Unmet Needs Prompted the Development**

All of these aforementioned unmet needs prompted the development of the Practitioner Audio Training (PAT.)

We, and our STS leaders worldwide, see PAT as

- A way to reach those who cannot go to workshops.
- A help in Oral Bible Schools by providing recorded stories and training.
- A tool to use in workshops when teaching non-literates.
- A tool for small group Bible studies.

**What is Pat?**

The PAT is a hybrid of teaching how to explore stories using STS tools of discovery and of simulating what workshop participants might experience by gathering in small groups to explore Bible stories. 

(Our *Simply The Story Handbook*, available at no cost online, provides the in-depth information of STS Preparation and STS Presentation. As well, a quick overview of *STS Presentation* is on this site.)

The results from people who have participated in discussing some of the PAT style Bible stories are most encouraging. Many are gaining the skills of using questions to investigate new Bible stories and passages.

**How to Test PAT**

As a sample of the Practitioner Audio Training, we offer at no cost on this site the essential introduction and other Bible teaching material available. If you decide to test the PAT, be sure to try it the way it is designed to work!

It’s sad to say, but some busy executives who decide to check out PAT first by listening to it alone. They only listen to the stories and miss the innovative PAT method and its value.
Practitioner Audio Training

To test PAT, a few or more people come together. They learn the story, listen to a set of questions, then they pause the story, discuss and reflect on the questions. Pausing the story too long, or going back and re-listening to questions again compromises the effectiveness of the new method.

For example, one story in the workshop that is available in the Practitioner Audio Training format is Abram & Sarai. These sets of questions are meant to prompt discussion. The study group sets its own pace. The decision of when to start again after the questions are discussed is made by the group when they decide they are ready.

In the five countries in which that particular story was tested, the shortest length of time the discussions took was two hours, and the longest was six hours!

(It might help to know that this Abram & Sarai sample story is from the list of 52 stories and it follows the Cain & Abel, Paralyzed Man Lowered a-d, Mary & Martha STS Presentation format. The average introduction is given because other stories in the list of 52 will need this information and refer back to it.)

The Purpose and Content of PAT

PAT's purpose is to teach people how to do STS. Once storytellers experience this style of preparation, they are more confident and capable of delivering stories with passion and authority. No matter what their religion, the questions from the storyteller and discussion of the group will be uniquely theirs.

Our projection for PAT is eventually to cover 52 stories in this new style. The 52 stories selected are the ones used in STS workshops. The stories are being prepared in sets of three stories at a time.

PAT On a Solar Audio Player

When all PAT stories are recorded, the program order on a solar audio player with PAT is scheduled to be:

1. Introductions and Contents Explained (God’s Story to be added in the future).
2. The Path.
5. How to Learn a Story.
6. Instructions for PAT.
9. Introduction to Abram & Sarai Story.
10. The Abram & Sarai Story.
11. Observation Questions.
13. Paralyzed Man Lowered a-d.
14. Cain & Abel a-d.
15. Mary & Martha STS Presentation (done live in a workshop).
**Testimonies of Use of PAT**

Many of the STS leaders, upon first hearing the style of the questions, had misgivings. In Dallas, the 15 instructors and attendees who tested it said right at the beginning, “Too many questions” or “Play one question at a time.”

We responded by asking them to “just try the whole set of questions, one set at time, and then give your feedback afterwards.”

You should have seen the interaction! They discussed a myriad of points, argued and discovered. The exploration lasted two hours, the timing all controlled by their decisions as to when to turn the player back on and listen to more questions.

Afterwards, to a person, all commented on how much they liked the discussion in which they just participated. They noticed saw that occasionally questions were repeated and they sons for the repeated questions and the style of the questions.

During development, PAT was tried by test groups (some brand new to STS and some who were familiar).

One pastor who had been to a workshop called and said, “I figured out what you were doing with the questions. It is different, but I see how it will work for people who cannot get to a workshop.”

A young man in ministry, maybe 22 years old, and an 18-year old came by our headquarters’ office. We gave them the CD and a player and told them they could listen to it on a long car ride. Neither of them knew STS. The older one called a few days later and said, “We liked it.”

Then he went into great detail about what they learned. He said, “I want to listen to all of it again to learn more. I want to make a copy for a pastor friend who teaches a home Bible class.”

Children have told us, “We have been playing it at home since we heard it in home church, so we can think more about the Abram & Sarai story.”

**How to Use PAT**

Again keep in mind that because an experienced STS practitioner is not present, the questions on PAT are purposely given in a way that does not closely follow the story. As listeners talk together, they select the questions that interest them. This style, of allowing listeners to select the questions to discuss, creates a conversational atmosphere rather than a classroom feeling.

So DO NOT let anyone fret over not being able to remember all of the questions or feel the need to go back and re-listen. Sometimes a question is asked such as, “Did you discuss what God has promised to Abram?” The listeners might confidently say, “Yes we already covered that,” and they move on. That is a win!

But, if from the prompting, they do decide to discuss something they may have missed, that too is a win. Most often the process of asking a series of bread-crumb questions encourages those studying the story to keep looking closer at the story.

We are finding that this PAT experience of learning a story, and then learning about that story via oral style questions, does enable people to start sharing stories and using questions they have developed.

In this sample, in the introduction to the story, we give some “advance information” about Abram, information that is not in the story. Our desire in the introduction is to link Abram to Abraham since some do not know those are two names for the same man.
As well, most of these who know Abraham also perceive him as a perfect person, the Father of Faith or as a great prophet. But in the later properties of the Bible, he is described as a disobe...

**PAT is Useful For:**

1. Those who cannot attend a workshop.
   a. To give them some stories and the basic idea of using questions to teach the stories in a discussion style.
   b. Impart the skill of finding treasures in new stories and learning how to form questions.

2. Those who have been to a workshop to refresh their memories and deepen their practitioner skills.

3. Assistant and Provisional Instructors to deepen their training skills.

4. Those who are seeking to understand more about the Bible.

**To learn from these PAT stories**

Although it is rare in a ministry situation, to have two to three hours to present a story, the purpose of PAT is to help participants to experience the wealth of information that can be found in a Bible passage—and found through questions.

To learn from these PAT stories, if only a half hour to an hour is available for this preparation, just go as far into the story and the questions as the time allows.

Then, next time together, all should participate in a review by telling the story and then stating what has happened since the last time. Then, the group continues by listening to new sets of questions and discussing together.

We pray that many storytellers will be developed by participating in PAT. Storytellers can become comfortable with using questions for discovery and also with using the information they glean during that time of discovery.

Then, as God leads, storytellers can use whatever presentation is time available to them, and present through their own questions the content they select. Storytellers must always and only teach what they personally see and what God leads them to present.

**Beyond Expectations, Modern Day Leaping**

The most amazing discovery yet in our STS journey began like this. A team of experienced STS instructors gathered in a meeting room to spend the day fine tuning teaching skills and bonding as a team to prepare for leading a five-day STS workshop.

That month we had completed recording three Bible stories with a lot of in-depth questions. This Practitioner Audio Training (PAT) was tremendous. Four STS instructors and one man from Kenya, Jacob, who arrived a day early by mistake, prepared to start the study.

Now, here is where it got interesting …

The front door of the meeting room was being monitored by a man who looked as if life had run him over—several times! He had a gray mustache that matched his gray hair—gray hair than his years. As I came back from the parking lot to re-enter the church, I felt led to stop and speak to this man.
“Hi. My name is Dorothy.”
“I’m Junior,” he responded.
“So do you go to this church?” I asked.
“Yep. I watch over things here and keep the place clean.”
“Say, Junior, I wonder if you could help me with something?”
He responded, “What?”
“Well, here’s the deal,” I confided. “I am testing a new recorded teaching. It’s a Bible story and some questions and I really need some people to listen to it and then give me their opinion.”
He narrowed his eyes. “Do I hafta read?”
“Oh no,” I assured him. “It’s all recorded and then you talk about it.”
“Well, okay. Let me finish my cigarette first, then I’ll come in.”

In my side vision, I had seen a few people standing nearby on the sidewalk. Turning to them, I asked, “You part of this church?”
The man in the group responded, “We’re here to clean the church.”
“Oh,” I said. “We’re gonna be here awhile for our training, so you can’t clean now. If you can come in and help me with this test, then, when we’re done, we can help you clean.”

So Junior, and what I was to learn was a family of five, joined the four instructors and the Kenyan and the test began. Occasionally our group of advanced instructors would stop the planning we were doing and look across the room to watch… pausing the recording, discussing and then playing again to listen to more of the discussion-prompting questions.

Occasionally our group of advanced instructors would stop the planning we were doing and look across the room to watch… pausing the recording, discussing and then playing again to listen to more of the discussion-prompting questions.

The discussion stayed active with even the teens adding some thoughts. In wise STS style, the instructors did not respond immediately, but gave others opportunity to first voice their observations about a particular part of the story.

Time was approaching for the dinner to arrive, so I stood up to walk over to the group to ask for their feedback. The… so we can have a place to stay and get some food. I lost my job and yesterday we lost our home, so we are homeless.

Surely it was amazing to hear him reveal his situation and to hear his application of the story to himself. This little… still they clearly and peacefully discussed why you needed to trust God in the hard times. Trust was not theory to them!

I walked on over to the group. “Sorry to interrupt, but dinner will be arriving soon. How far into the recorded questions have you gotten?”

This diverse group proceeded to tell me what they learned and how they felt about this style of studying… Jacob. You saw some amazing insights in the story that were new to us, things that in our culture we never think about!”

Interestingly, one of the teen daughters shared a specific lesson she gained from how Sarai just went along with Abram’s lie. The teen son announced, “I could do this with some of my friends from school.”

To a person the feedback was very positive, which, of course, encouraged all of us who had been observing. “So how long do you think you were discussing this story?”

“Oh maybe an hour,” they agreed.
“Actually, you were talking about it for two hours and 40 minutes!”

The pastor of this church reaches out to local neighbors and in return, many of the drug-controlled homeless in the area are drawn by the love offered to them by this church. The pastor drove Junior to the motel where he currently lived.

Now here is what impacted us so strongly. The next morning, after the pastor dropped off Junior, he took me aside to give me the story of his life. “Junior has been in and out of prison for 20 years and… twenty years in prison, is known by local police as having mental problems and now has dialysis three times a week.”

Our team had felt led to invite the family and Junior to the workshop and to sponsor their meals for that time. We went… together, studied stories together, practiced and enjoyed discovery together. All participated, including Junior.
Junior was in the small study group that dug into their story of Peter and John nearing the Temple gate where they might be seen. They found Peter standing by the Damascus gate.

During the week of the workshop the pastor said he saw Junior sharing Bible stories with people outside the Laundromat. Junior was standing and praising God.

**Beyond Expectations:** Five months later the unexpected report came to us. Junior’s pastor told me on the phone, “I just had lunch with L.R. He explained, ‘Junior had been coming to see me. He doesn’t bring a Bible and read it to me. He tells stories. I liked what I heard, so I wanted to know more.’”

The pastor shared, “We are realizing that Junior has been going out to the homeless all around here and telling them stories!”

It appears that the Lord had not used a literacy test to determine whether Junior was qualified to serve in the Christian army!

P.S. The pastor told us that the father of the homeless family now had a good job and the family had a place to live!

Dorothy Miller –TGSP/STS

More information on PAT and Example PAT Stories