

Frequently Asked Questions

This "People Ask" section (Frequently Asked Questions or FAQs) on this new site stays in process. We

Below are some of the [questions](#) with answers and we will be adding more. After you spend time surfing

Questions

1. Aren't stories just for children? [Answer](#)
 2. Wouldn't it be safe to say that teaching Bible stories is more appropriate for uneducated or illiterate people? [Answer](#)
 3. What ages can learn STS stories and use questions to teach? [Answer](#)
 4. Practically speaking, how can I use story? [Answer](#)
 5. Why does it take 5 days of training just to learn a story? [Answer](#)
 6. Why do you set up 5-day workshops? That is a hardship to have to leave my work and family? [Answer](#)
 7. What is the difference between STS and other ministries that use story? [Answer](#)
 8. I use story. But my preference is to not impose my ideas on others, so I don't manage discussion. [Answer](#)
 9. If *Simply The Story* is so simple, why does it take multiple workshops? [Answer](#)
 10. If I can't go to a workshop, can I learn how to tell stories the STS way? [Answer](#)
 11. I am not able to memorize, so wouldn't telling stories by memory be too hard for me? [Answer](#)
 12. I am a shut-in. How can I use STS beyond personal devotions? [Answer](#)
 13. How can I use STS to teach the 6 days of Creation in a half hour (first) day of a Bible club. [Answer](#)
 14. I like STS, but my pastor says it is not for him because he is commanded to preach the Word not stories. [Answer](#)
 15. Without the written Word, how can the integrity of the Scripture be maintained? [Answer](#)
 16. What about the Epistles? [Answer](#)
 17. In a workshop, how much time will be spent on a general overview of orality proper (i.e. convincing people)? [Answer](#)
 18. How specific would this training be to my country which is semi-literate? The last story training I attended was in a country where people don't read. [Answer](#)
-

Questions & Answers

1. Aren't stories just for children?

- Answer: Jesus taught in [children](#) AND people of all ages mixed [academic](#) children spoke to Him. Why?

- **Wouldn't it be safe to say that teaching Bible stories is more appropriate for uneducated or**

- Answer: Literate and non-literate followed Jesus. While many of the highly educated and religious

The testimonies located in many places on this site show that more than just the uneducated gain

- **What ages can learn STS stories and use questions to teach?**

- Answer: We continue to see children ages 5-10 and up repeating 10-verse stories accurately after

Young children can learn to ask a few questions and talk about the stories they tell. Most of the you

- **Practically speaking, how can I use story?**

- Answer: We describe knowing a story the STS way as having the story "in your heart pocket." Peo

Throughout this site are [Witnessing](#) of people using their STS [Evangelizing](#) skills to evangelize and d

[Prisons](#)

[Pick Your Spot](#)

- **Why does it take 5 days of training just to learn a story?**

- Answer: You're right to notice that! It doesn't take five days to learn a story. It is accurate that we o

We also offer a two and a half day training to help people to become good storyteller-teachers. Oh,

- **Why do you set up 5-day long workshops? That is a hardship to have to leave my work and**

- Answer: If no one in a pa [Hosting](#) and a certified STS ins [Workshop Description](#) for more detail

A percentage of the attendees interested more in becoming a storyteller-practitioner come for only

Those selected usually travel to another workshop or two in order to solidify their training and leade

We offer as a gift on our [Simply The Story Handbook](#) . It is downloadable. The [Practitioner](#) in that

[er Audio Training](#)

- **What is the difference between STS and other ministries that use story?**

- Answer: The foundation of all the story groups is much the same, learning and telling Bible stories.

We also teach how to learn [Design of STS](#). Also much that describes [Stories Organizations](#) and the ma

- **I use story. But my preference is to not impose my ideas on others, so I don't manage disc**
- Answer: This is a good goal, to not impose your ideas on others. We would agree with that. But we

In STS training, we promote the use of story to reach oral learners. But as passages such as Roma
Let me give you an example of what that means: □□ After an STS workshop in Africa, one attendee

[By Foot, By Camel, By Airbus](#)

I used to be a businessman in Nairobi. God called me to go to the mission field, but I kept making e

Then one day I got a phone call that my shop had burned down. You know—I didn't even go look at

I've made friends, but that's it! They do not want to hear what I have to say. □□ To get here for this w

We find this African evangelist's observation to perfectly describe what we see as central to the effe

Wonderfully, most of the time, listeners discover even more truths, truths new to the storyteller. Tha

By the way, our East Africa leader told us that after the workshop the messages began coming back

As well, this evangelist now serves as one of the STS team instructors. He travels that hard way to

One of the key parts of what we teach in

[STS is listening and responding](#) .

Storytellers are teaching what they have learned. But the storytellers also listen to what the people them

- **If *Simply The Story* is so simple, why does it take multiple worksh**
- Answer: "Simply" The Story means that "only" the Bible story is used. It does not mean that this ne

Attendees who have grown up among oral communicators find it easier to absorb the concepts of S

In STS, all attendees gain the ability to study and discuss, yet while doing these things, they discove

To gain all of the skills of STS for oneself and to learn how to train others in these multiple skills req

An instructor needs to have answers to the questions that arise on issues of oral learners and the a

Multiple skills are used in STS. People must first learn how to carefully listen or read Scripture and t

Lastly, people need to learn how to take those various observations from within the story and make

Even the skill of how to lead a wide variety of people in discussion involves both new information and

See what is involved in [certification](#) and a testimony of one [Journal to Discovering Story](#)

- **If I can't go to a workshop, how can I learn how to tell stories the STS way?**

- Answer: A sample of the [Practitioner Audio Training \(PAT\)](#) [is available](#) on our site. [Handbook is available](#)

- **I am not able to memorize, so wouldn't telling stories by memory be too hard for me?**

- Answer: The wonderful [Bible Stories that Discover "Remembering"](#) makes it easy. We actually show

- **I am a shut-in. How can I use STS beyond personal devotions?**

- Answer: When you have been touched in your devotions by something special in a story, you can

Sample Conversational Use of STS: Woman Healed

Whether writing or speaking, to be most effective we recommend using conversational style. For example

For that story you might write or say some, or even all of this:

I was reading the story in the Bible about the woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years

So in this story I was reading about, Jesus was surrounded by a crowd of people when He was

"The woman came behind Jesus and touched the hem of His clothes, because she was saying,

"But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her, He said, 'daughter, be very comforted; your faith has

And that's the end of this little part of the story that impressed me.

So I was thinking about where a woman who had constant bleeding, who had spent all of her money

And what about what this ill lady thought to herself, "If I could just touch His clothes, I would be

And another thing. When she touched His clothes, Jesus turned around and when He saw her He

Now that made me think of something else. Did the story say the woman grabbed or pulled on

So what happens at that moment to the direction Jesus was going? Well, based on that fact,

Yes. He really could have not noticed her touch ... or noticed it and just ignored it and kept going.

So I was thinking about how Jesus did stop and as the story says, “when Jesus sees her.” And

How about this question? When Jesus tells the lady to “be very comforted,” might that give

Then Jesus says, “Your faith has made you whole” and the woman was made whole from that

Well, that is what I might write in a letter. Maybe to some people I would only write the introduction and

And if I had a chance to talk on the phone to say some of this, I would wait for the person to whom I

I put it in my mind that I am just discussing Scripture as I would speak in a conversation. I have certainly

Notice that after I spoke the introduction and told the small part of the story, that all the way through

Even those familiar with the story may not ever have noticed some of the small details in the story; so

We call what the person who answered your questions found, “spiritual observations.”

Ok. Now you have written some or all of those questions (or have talked with someone about the questions)

It is now the time that you can use some of the STS style questions to help uncover spiritual applications

Briefly, you go back to something significant covered in your letter’s questions, or something in the story

You can ask or write general questions after your first mention a finding:

It seems obvious in this story that this woman is not high in society or rich! I think we would

Do any people today fit in that kind of category? What must that be like? Are people pushed

Remember how it was written years before that the promised Savior would come and bring healing

Also I am wondering about today? How could anyone touch Jesus’ clothes?

Remember how Jesus stopped for the woman and spoke to her fondly? Could Jesus’ response

So, you go through each observation you saw in the story, such as:

- **How the lady had to make her way through a crowd that did not welcome her.**
- **That she did so little to actually get her healing.**
- **That according to Jesus’ statement, her faith is what made her whole.**
- **That her faith was not a blind faith, it was faith in the information she had read or heard and**

Also you could remind people how Jesus stopped and focused just on her and made her whole.

Maybe ask, does this story show us anything about Jesus and His ability and who He cares for a

The topics in the story you first bring to discussion should be what was truly meaningful to you as you m

As much as possible, word your questions as if you also want to know this information as opposed to as

It's not that you don't know the answers to many of the questions you ask, but you are allowing people to

This is a way you can minister from where you are planted. Use a short piece of a story, ask a lot of que

We teach this way of asking questions in [Practitioner Audio Training](#) and you can experience [Outreaches](#) kinds of [Pick Your Spot](#)

- **How can I use STS to teach the 6 days of Creation in a half hour (first) day of a Bible club.**
- ANSWER: One way to cover a long passage using STS is to tell the first part of the story in a short
Perhaps for the Creation story you could tell just Genesis 1:24-28 passage? Using the STS present
- **I like STS, but my pastor says it is not for him because he is commanded to preach the Word**
- ANSWER: It is always good to hear of pastors who are commitment to the Word of God. Surely, w
Other pastors have arranged for some of their people to learn STS for short term mission's trips. W
- **Without the written Word, how can the integrity of the Scripture be maintained?**
- ANSWER: We too are very concerned about keeping true to the Word. As quickly as possible we a
As much as we are able, we format recorded stories, God's Story and New Testament, if available,
- **What about the Epistles?**
- ANSWER: We encourage the use of STS for investigating all passages of Scripture, including the
The center of STS is to stay in one passage at time, to cover just as much information as can be re
Then questions are asked that take a learner through the passage chronologically which helps them
If a passage is very hard to remember, sometimes a teacher will read it all the way through out loud

For more on use of Episodes in STS, see the downloadable gift [STS in STS Book](#)

Whether the Scripture being taught is story, poetry or a teaching passage and it is told or read by in

- **In a workshop, how much time will be spent on a general overview of orality proper (i.e. con**

- ANSWER: The STS workshops are chiefly practical. We teach hands-on using oral methods! Thro

We give OT and NT examples of the biblical precedent for oral teaching. Those orality presentation

We then present an example Bible story and discussion STS style to show how this method can be

After this, we begin to unpack how an STS presentation is formed ... including another sample story

Next all the attendees gather in small groups. There, with the guidance of an instructor, participants

Mixed in with these various hands-on opportunities, the whole group is taught and shown how to mi

We also show how to use oral methods to present non-story passages such as those found in the E

So, as you can see, this is a very hands-on, practical workshop. You will walk out with a basic unde

Attendees receive resources. With practice they can become highly effective storytellers. We also e

- **How specific would this training be to my country which is semi-literate? The last story train**

- ANSWER: STS training will fit the need of your country. This STS style of learning and teaching ot

STS started in the Fall of 2006 using the foundation of storying. From there its unique design develo

Testimonies of those trained in STS describe everything from transformation of their personal Bible

STS has been tested and adapted to become an [Excellent Model](#) that truly crosses cultural boundaries

However, the universality of STS is mostly due to its adherence to the communication style of the c