

# BIBLE STORYTELLING

LEARN TO SHARE THE  
STORIES OF THE BIBLE



AN EASY TO USE TRAINING  
CURRICULUM FOR ANY  
NARRATIVE BIBLE STORY.



## OBJECTIVE

Stories are a great way to connect to people, and most people learn best through hearing and sharing stories. When followers of Jesus memorize the stories from the Bible, they have a unique perspective and ability to share God's truth in the right situation as the Holy Spirit prompts them. **In these training sessions, you will learn to memorize Bible stories and learn how to re-tell them to others.**

## TRAINING OVERVIEW

Created is a step-by-step teaching process with options for you to choose from when training others. In the teaching method provided, trainees see the storytelling process modeled for them, work with others to master the skills, and then practice independently.

There are many variations of the training, and you can choose them depending on your group's time allowance, how quickly the group works, and their preferences.

Whatever process you choose, make sure everyone is interacting and practicing. The more the trainees' practice, the more they will genuinely store God's Word in their hearts and have more confidence to share His wondrous ways.

Keep in mind, since you are storytelling, it is best to choose a narrative for your group to memorize.

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## TIPS FOR BIBLE STORYTELLING

*Begin by reviewing the tips listed below for your group to refer back to during the storytelling trainings. Every time you teach a new story, you should remind them of the tips.*

- **Give a thought-by-thought account of the story.** You are memorizing the story's main details in order, not giving a word-for-word account; this allows for a smooth and natural translation of the story as you share in everyday settings.
- **Bible storytelling works best with narrative accounts** because a narrative is a story. (i.e., the book of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, the Gospels, etc.)
- **Stick to the story; do not add to or modernize the story.** For example, do not make up a name if there is not a name. God's Word is sufficient and does not need your added details.
- **Explain words that may not be common for non-Christians.** For example, Scribes = Religious Teachers, Repent = Turn from your sins and to God

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## TIPS CONTINUED

- **Leave out distracting proper names.** It is appropriate to leave out the name of a place like Capernaum. Most people do not know these names, and it does not take away from the story. Instead, you can say something to the effect of, "On one of Jesus' travels, he entered a new town..."
- **Never start the story saying, "Once upon a time..."** God's Word is true and should be talked about as such. It is not a made-up fantasy you read in children's stories. It is the story of your living God and His people, which means it is your heritage's story.
- **Consider starting the story by saying:**
  - "What you said reminds me of a story in the Bible..."
  - "There is a story in the Bible where..."

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## TEACHER MODEL

*For this section, you, the teacher, will model Bible storytelling and you will also display the importance of receiving helpful feedback.*

- 1.** Read the passage straight from the Bible.
- 2.** Ask the group who the characters are.
- 3.** Ask the group if there are any words that may need to be explained to someone who doesn't know the Bible well. If so, make a list with a simple description of the word's meaning. (ex. Scribes = Religious Teachers)
- 4.** You (teacher), retell the story by relaying the main details in the narrative. Have your group follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story.
- 5.** Ask the group if there was any part of the story you missed, left-out, etc. Gladly take their input. This will make them more comfortable when it is their turn to practice telling the story.

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## GROUP PRACTICE

*For this section, choose one or both of the activities below to complete with your group. Once they have practiced at least one of the learning methods, have them move on to the "You Do" - Individual Practice.*

- **Storyboarding:** Ask for a volunteer to draw a stick figure sketch of the passage as you retell the story again. Be sure to pause along the way to give the drawer time to sketch. As the volunteer sketches the storyline, the rest of the group should be participating on their sheet of paper or index card. Their drawing can be the same or different from the volunteers.
- **Acting:** Depending on the group's size, split people up, give them a set time (10 minutes or so) to practice acting out the story, and then share their interpretation with the group. Encourage all members to participate. Even if there aren't many characters in the story, they can get creative and have someone assign the role of an inanimate object, animals, the weather, etc. The point is to interact with the narrative to connect and memorize it easier.

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## INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

*For this section, instruct individuals to practice telling the Bible story they learned with a partner. Retelling the story out loud and on their own will be the real "test" for them to see if they have the account memorized and in what ways they need to improve. Depending on time (you may choose to do this at a different training session), after the pairs have finished practicing, consider having the whole group complete one more "We Do" - Group Practice or move on to the Whole Group Scripture Connection.*

**1. Partner Share:** Break the group into pairs. Each person will be responsible for retelling the story in their own words. They may use their storyboarding picture notes, or if you would allow, have the Bible handy to refer back to.

**2. Feedback:** When they finish sharing the story, their partner should give feedback, just as they did with the teacher retelling. They should tell the speaker if they felt an important detail was left out or if the speaker did a flawless job.

**3. Switch:** Once the first person has gone, it is now the partner's turn to retell the story and receive feedback.



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## WHOLE GROUP SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

*For this section, bring the group together to discuss what they learned from the story. Below are questions that you can ask for every Bible story memorized.*

- What does God want you to know about Him, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit from this story?
- What does God want you to know about humanity or yourself from this story?
- What is your response to this story?
- In what circumstance would knowing and sharing this story be beneficial?
- Do you know someone who may need to hear this particular story? If not, let's pray for God to give you eyes and ears to see who may need to hear this story this week.

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## TIPS FOR LEADING SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS

*Review the short list of tips before leading a small group discussion. The recommendations are to help you facilitate a group to allow each person to get the most out of the study.*

- For each question asked, there may be multiple answers. Make sure to wait and repeat the question several times until you feel the group has fully answered.
- Count to seven in your head before re-asking or re-wording a question. Those seven seconds allow people to process and think of an answer without rushing them.
- One way to encourage more responses is to say, “What else?” instead of “Are there any other answers?”
- As the teacher, you may share what you learned, but try to wait until the end, or include the “What else?” question after you share.
- If the group does not seem especially chatty, consider breaking them into pairs again to answer the questions and then have the pairs share out loud to the group.