

KIDStory[®]

A PROGRAM OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

BASIC TRAINING MANUAL

"Generation after generation stands in awe of (God's) work;
each one tells stories of your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4 *(MSG)*



Welcome to KIDStory

Generation after generation stands in awe of (God's) work; each one tells stories of Your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4 (MSG)

We are so glad you have decided to join us for a workshop. We believe it will revolutionize the way you teach from the Bible, and through His Word and Spirit, your life will be transformed as well. KIDStory is about reaching and discipling children in God's Word by creating a relational learning environment where children can become eye-witnesses and active participants in God's Story; rather than distant observers. KIDStory relies on Jesus' method of teaching: telling stories, interactive experiences and meaningful discussions.

These strategies are fun to learn, and they are easy to use and share with others. Leaders are taught to listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of the children, then encourage the children to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not just to learn information, but to facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart and mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family and ultimately a community through His Story and His Spirit.

There are some critical concepts that will be presented throughout this workshop. We mention them here and trust that when you share this training with others, you will know exactly where they need to be introduced and expanded upon.

CORE ESSENTIALS

There are certain things you will find in every aspect of KIDStory, whether you are training leaders or leading a group of children. We want to create environments where children learn: who God is, who they are (their purpose and value) and how to have a relationship with Jesus that is real and personal. We believe these things will happen when the following core essentials are practiced:



- **Bible Centered:** The core of every lesson, both in teaching children and training leaders, is the Bible Story. Everything continually keeps coming back to the story and discovering who God is and how to follow Him.



- **Fun:** We want these truths to stick and become a part of a child's everyday life. In order for this to happen and to engage a child, it needs to be fun. When there is fun and laughter, children will want to be involved, come back and bring their friends with them.



- **Reproducing:** KIDStory is simple and practical. Leaders can show others how to use this strategy and the kids can retell the Bible Stories to family and friends.
- **Relational:** Of all the things that draw children closest to Jesus, significant relationships is by far the most critical thing needed. It's not just about teaching a lesson, but it's getting to know the children and what is stirring in their hearts and souls.
- **Spirit-led:** Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be the One who would reveal all the things that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and the One who transforms a life. We need to be listening and moving in the directions that the Holy Spirit leads us to.



DISCIPLESHIP

What Jesus said to his first followers outlines for us the discipleship journey:

Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

- **Come:** The discipleship journey begins with the Holy Spirit calling out to us in many ways, to come into a relationship with Jesus; to accept and believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus is the way to the Father.
- **Follow me:** After choosing to accept Jesus for who He is, we learn to surrender and follow Him.
- **I will make you:** God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, continues to change us so we become more like Jesus.
- **Fishers of men:** God sends us out so we can tell others about Jesus so they too will **come** to understand what it means to have a relationship with Him.

Jesus did not give age limits to who should be discipled. KIDStory is one of the most effective strategies to disciple children anywhere at anytime.

KIDSTORY CLUBS

Environments are created where children have an encounter with Jesus and they are welcomed, loved and blessed. Jesus modeled this for us as you will experience in the KIDStory workshop. Our prayer is that by the end of this workshop, you will leave not just telling others what a good workshop it was or remembering the details of what we teach, but what God wants you to do with what you have learned. What needs to be added or changed in the environment you are with children? This learning environment is what we call a KIDStory Club. You may call it whatever you want and meet wherever and whenever it is convenient for you. The important thing is you follow through on what God is calling you to through this KIDStory training.

So, Welcome!! We pray the Lord opens up how you can impact children with God's transforming hope through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit.

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SESSION: Welcome & Jesus Blesses the Children

WELCOME: Every culture and setting is different as to what is appropriate at the beginning of a workshop. Sometimes it is appropriate to greet certain people of leadership and to give thanks to the hosts. In some cultures, it is important to give the reasons why your material is important before you have them do an experiential exercise, while in others it is more important to have them do something practical and then tell them why they did it. Know your audience and determine what is the best way to raise their curiosity and desire to know more. Cast a vision for how God can use the KIDStory strategy to transform lives by giving examples of how He has worked in your life and others through KIDStory Clubs. Thank them for coming and acknowledge their desire to reach and disciple children for Christ. Let them know KIDStory is simple enough that:

- * Children will be excited to come, be in God's Word, and invite their friends
- * Participants will be able to start using it immediately
- * Participants will be able to show someone else how to do it
- * Participants will be able to network with others as they share what God is doing

BIBLE STORYING OF JESUS BLESSING THE CHILDREN



Opening: Have the participants get in pairs and share a time when they did not feel welcomed or loved as a child.

Go through the **Participant Guidelines** highlighting how you want people to use their imagination and pretend that they are there when the story is taking place. *Who and what do they see? How are people in the story responding to what is happening? Do they smell anything? Do they feel anything? Also, your desire is for everyone to participate. Everyone has a unique perspective to the story which makes it come alive; we will learn from one another as we share our perspectives. Let's stick to today's story and not bring in any other Bible stories we may know. For right now, just listen and imagine – you won't need to follow along in your Bible. So if you brought one, you can close it now.*



Background: *We see Jesus interacting with all kinds of people, young and old alike. He meets with people who are very well liked and with some whom most people don't like at all. Jesus picked some men to follow Him. They were called His disciples. They were learning to live life just like Him. Listen to this story and hear how Jesus and the disciples treat a certain group of people. This story comes from the Bible and so we know it is true. (You can now close your Bible and place it to the side while you tell the story.)*



Tell the Story: Mark 10:13-16

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he gathered the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.



ReTell: Rope Game: Take a 5-yard piece of rope and tie it together to make a circle.

Have the kids grab onto the rope. At your command, the kids move the rope clockwise and when you say, “Stop,” whoever has the knot has to answer a question you have about the Bible story or tell what happened next in the story.



Discover Questions:

- What did you notice as this story was being told? What feelings did it generate?
- What did you like about the story?
- Can you see the children in the story? What expressions are on their faces? How do you think they felt being with the disciples? With Jesus?
- I wonder what the parents were wanting from Jesus by bringing their children to Him?
- What choices did the parents make? Disciples? Jesus? The children? What other choices could they have made?
- What does this story tell us about God/Jesus?
- In what ways do other people in your community act like the disciples towards children? How does the church treat them this way?
- In what ways do our churches stop children from coming to Jesus?
- How do I stop children from coming to Jesus?

Response Questions:

- What does this story tell you about God’s view of children?
- What is God calling you to because of what you have seen and heard today?
- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking of you because of what you have learned from the story and from our discussion?

SESSION: Learning the Story

What they just experienced is what we call a KIDStory Club: Creating an environment where they encounter the love of Jesus and are welcomed, loved and blessed. Have them share the differences they experienced with this lesson and a typical Sunday School class.



WHAT IS BIBLE STORYING?

Bible Storying is more than just storytelling. It is creating a learning environment that allows the Spirit to work in people's hearts so they can personally know God, understand what it means to follow Him, learn His Word so His story can be told again and again. KIDStory is training those, like yourselves, who want to reach and disciple children for Jesus Christ. (Knowing God and His ways through the telling of His story coupled with interactive experiences and dialog.)

UNIVERSALS

No matter where you go in this world, there are certain things that will be true for everyone, everywhere. No matter what culture you find yourself in, there are universals that are common to all people no matter their age. You will see how these things will become important as we teach God's Word to children. These things include:



Family/Belonging



Music



Games/Fun



Arts (artistic, drama, dance)



Stories

We want God to bring beauty into our story but our story without God is too small for you. And to ask God to shrink Himself into our small story is not worth God's time or yours. But if you step into God's story – step onto His narrative for your life – you'll enter into a grand story; a story where beauty always comes out of tragedy. Erwin McManus

LESSON FORMAT

What does a typical lesson look like? Let's look at how we told the story of Jesus Blessing the Children.



Opening: *This is an opening time for people to engage with one another and to **tell personal stories**. It could be an activity or question that is not directly tied to the story but would start leaning people in that direction. I had you turn to the person next to you and share a time when you did not feel welcomed or loved as a child. Then there is the...*



Background: *This is getting everyone **ready for God's Story**. Is there a pre-story statement that you have prepared to get the people ready for the story? Is there background information they need to have to better understand the story or a transition from the last story to this one? In the story this morning I told you who the disciples were and asked you to listen to how Jesus and the disciples treated a certain group of people. Now it's time to...*

If the group is having a difficult time distinguishing between the Opening and the Background, go through the exercise on page 10. After reading the statement, they need to say which one it is.



Tell the Story: *It is critical to let the audience know that the story comes from the Bible and that it is true. People should have their Bibles closed at this time and stay focused on the story and the storyteller. Then we want to retell the story again.*



Retell: *It is important that the people now retell the story for any clarifications and Biblical accuracy. One way is to have participants open their Bibles and re-read the story from the scriptures. Someone can read the story or the leader can ask sequential questions which everyone then answers by looking at the Word. You might also use other activities to engage the participants individually or as a group. In the story of Jesus Blessing the Children, we retold the story by _____. You might use a game, a song or an art activity to do this. You will experience some of these throughout our time together.*



Discover & Response Questions: *Asking the questions and being able to talk about the story is critical in the learning process! We are accustomed to teaching the facts about a story without talking about the feelings and the heart level. A leader should move the group from remembering some of the facts to what God is doing in your heart and life. In the Response, there should be a question or two where you are praying for the Holy Spirit to speak to each person in your group. Most curriculum have one application that the lesson is driving towards. It is different with storying. We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the implication that will be for them. It will not be uncommon to have many different responses from your group members. This is good! Follow-up in the weeks to come to see how each person is doing in their obedience to what God said.*

OPENING vs BACKGROUND STATEMENTS

Randomly read the different statements below and have the participants tell you if the statement is an opening or a Background.



Opening

- Have you ever been lost?
- When was a time you had to trust somebody else to help you?
- What is something that would make you really sad if you lost it?
- Tell us of a time when you were really afraid.
- If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?



Background

- A Samaritan was not liked by Jewish people.
- A parable is a story that Jesus told to teach a lesson.
- Leprosy is a disease that can be cured today. But when Jesus was here, people were afraid of getting it from those that did have it. If you had it, you had to live away from everyone else.
- Before the story we find Jesus feeding 5000 people.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT:

Bible Storying starts with the Bible and allows the Holy Spirit to be the teacher. The role of the leader is to be a facilitator and not the Bible teacher. What does this mean? We...

- **Explore & Experience vs. Explain:** *The leader helps participants get into the Bible and the story and not have to explain or teach what the passage means.*
- **Facilitate vs. Teach:** *This can be hardest for those who have been small group leaders. Everything is brought back to the story for dialog to happen and questions to be answered.*
- **Listen vs. Speak:** *As a leader, you want to be in a position of listening to the Holy Spirit and to the participants and not be so anxious to give the answers.*
- **Story vs. Sermon:** *Stories are interactive where a sermon is a one-way conversation.*

WHY BIBLE STORYING?

So why do we use Bible Storying to teach children?

- Over 2/3 of the people in the world do not read. They learn through stories.
- Jesus always taught in stories/parables (Matthew 13:34)
- Over 75% of the Bible is written in stories
- God's Word is more powerful than my words
- God's Word through the Holy Spirit changes people's lives
- Universally, people love stories. You can use it anywhere with anyone
- People are knowing God's Word and being more intimate with Him
- Children can retell God's story to others who may not know Him

TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS AND PETER WALKING ON THE WATER (Matthew 14:22-33)

Let's start preparing a lesson together:

Get the participants into groups of 3-4 people. In these groups, you want them to read the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water from Matthew 14:22-33. You might tell the story first before they go into their groups.



After reading it, have them come up with an Opening and the Background.

LEARNING THE STORY

Now it is time to learn the story. Remember, this is a story to be told, not just facts to be remembered. When you return home and tell people about your experience here, are you thinking and memorizing everything you want to say?! No! You are remembering people and events that impacted you. Why would it be different with God's story? We want to tell His stories with excitement and expression as we relive it with our audience. We not only want the children to get into the story and to see who God is and how He works, we want them to be able to retell the story to others!

First we need to prepare ourselves...

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Is your heart in a position where you can hear and respond to the Holy Spirit? If not, what will it take?

- **Prayer:** *Are you allowing God to talk with you as you talk to Him?*
- **Read the Story:** *You will want to read the story several times and if possible, from different translations. What is God revealing to you? Who in the story are you relating to? Remember, this is what the Holy Spirit is showing you as He prepares your heart. The Spirit may speak very differently to the people in the group you are storying for.*
- **Perspectives:** *Think about the scripture to be taught. What is the Spirit revealing to you? What do the participants need to hear and learn? Imagine being there – what do you see, smell, hear – what does it feel like? Who are the different characters and what is their perspective on the situation? What is God's perspective? Answer questions like: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Physically place yourself there and tell the story in a 3rd person narrative.*

BREAK THE STORY DOWN

What are some ways that will help you remember the story? It is best that it be broken down into 4, at the most, 5 “chapters” or scenes. As you picture in your mind each scene or situation, you can then fill in the details of the story.

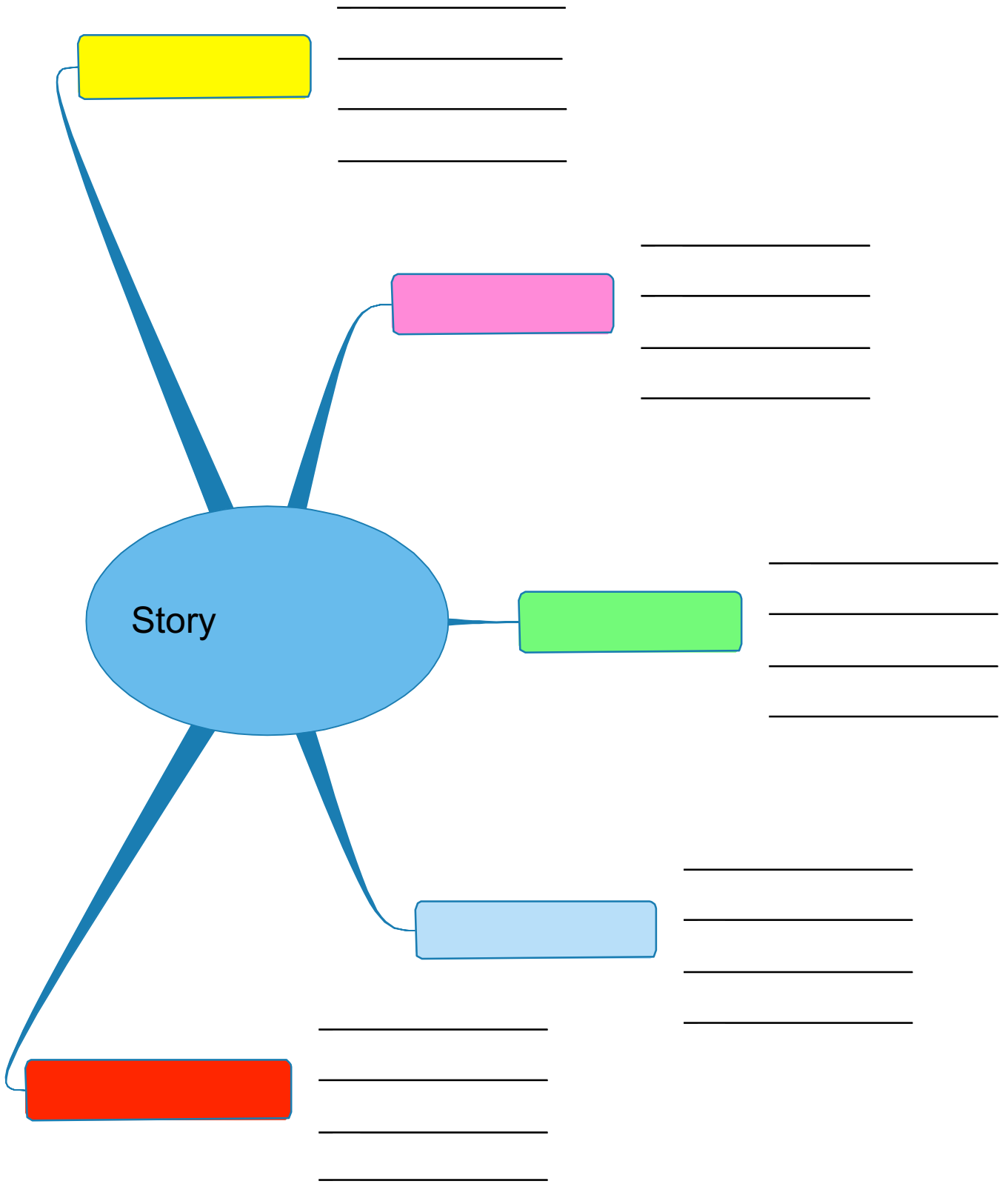
*It is **CRUCIAL** that you just tell the story as it is in the Bible. It needs to be Biblically **ACCURATE**. This means that we don’t add our own words or interpretations to the story! Make it **MEMORABLE** so that the audience will be engaged **IN** the story, but still keeping true to God’s Words and not our own. Finally, we want everyone to learn it well enough so they can **TELL IT AGAIN** to someone else.*

Here are some ways you can learn the story. There is no right or wrong way to learn the story. You need to find a way that works best for you.

- **Read & Tell:** Read the story, close your Bible and tell the story out loud. Read the story to see how accurate you were. Do this several times.
- **List the Events**
- **Mindmaps** (page 14)
- **Story Drawing** (page 15)
- **Room Locations:** Moving around the room to illustrate the movements of the Bible characters or the different scenes. Physically place yourself at the scene while telling it
- **Hand Gestures:** Ex: creation is making a round world with your hands
- **Key Words:** for each segment or scene

It’s not just about the words of the story, but instead, tell the story from the pictures in our minds. It works!

As a trainer, you will choose what works best for you to remember the story. It is important to help those you will be training to use the tools that work best for them and to encourage that in the ones they will be leading. It is also important to be looking at any tools you will be using to tell the story, knowing some will be more comfortable and easier for you. Allow for the participants to discover what is best for them. This is also true for how you have the children retell the story. Remember to use different methods to appeal to children with different learning styles.



Story Drawing

Bible Story _____

Bible Reference _____

CRAFTING THE STORY

Crafting is taking something and making it have worth and meaning. It is done with skill and careful attention to detail. When we craft a story in Bible Storying, the scripture is not just being memorized but being told as a story with consideration to the following:

- **Assumed Knowledge:** *The authors of the Bible told and wrote it with the understanding that the people listening would have knowledge of the culture they are in. Ex: In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Jews knew all about their dislike of the Samaritans. They knew it but we would not. This information may need to be communicated in the Background. If possible, use other scripture references to back up your statement.*
- **Age Appropriateness:** *Are there words or concepts in the story that the children would not understand without an explanation? It would be best to substitute a word that the children will understand but keep the story Biblically accurate or to explain it in the Background.*
- **What May Not Be Needed:** *Some details bog down the story and people will get lost as to what is important to know. Examples are all the names, numbers and locations in a story that are not critical to be remembered but would distract the participants.*
- **Opening & Closing Statements:** *What background info is needed; is there a transition needed from previous stories?*
- **Cultural Offenses:** *Be sensitive to things in the story that may offend participants (Jesus being alone with the woman at the well.)*

Have each person individually work on learning the story for 10 minutes. Have them get into pairs or their small groups for each person to have an opportunity to tell the story. Stress the importance of enjoying telling the story and not that it is told perfectly word for word.



SESSION: Tell the Story



GOD'S STYLE

Let's add some things to the way we tell the story to make it come alive and get the children into the Bible story. Remember, we stay ACCURATE to what the Bible says and not add anything of our own. Let's first look at some principles in how God told His stories. He made them so they were...

- **Memorable:** *God delivers His message in ways that you don't forget; they allow us to experience the story. Some examples are: the rainbow that God placed in the sky after the flood and Thomas feeling the holes in Jesus' hands.*
- **Unexpected:** *Sometimes the messages come in an unexpected manner. Some examples are: Balaam and the donkey, Moses & burning bush, Saul being blinded, different healings in the Bible (Naaman, the lame and blind men). We can change the environments by the locations of where we meet, the seating arrangements, or creating moods with light/dark.*
- **Multi-Sensory:** *God used the senses in making His Story memorable; the more senses and activity we use, the more likely we are to remember!*
 - **Visual:** *We are especially visual people and so it might be helpful to have things that people can see the story*
 - **Costumes**
 - **Objects:**

Give a different fabric to each group and have them figure out how it can be used to tell the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water



- **Touch:** examples: objects to hold or pass around, splashing water on kids
- **Hear:** examples: sound effects; rubbing hands to make the sound of rain
- **Smell:** examples: incense burning, fish for visual but also the smell
- **Taste:** examples: food to taste (manna)

- **Live It Out:** *Jesus lived it out with his disciples – he not only taught them but he modeled it for them. He did not elevate himself but he served them. How can we do the same? Many times, just our actions and attitudes will help children understand who Jesus was and how he responded to the people in the Bible stories.*


*We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you
not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives,
because you had become dear to us.*

I Thessalonians 2:8

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL THE STORY

- **First Person:** as though you were one of the characters in the story
- **Third Person:** as a storyteller
- **Art Attack:** paper, crayons, markers
- **Objects:** cloths, spray bottle
- **Drama**
- **Hand Motions**
- **Audience Participation**
- **Someone reading the story while another person acts it out**

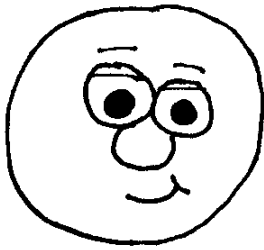
DELIVERY:

- **Movement:** *Don't be glued to your chair. It's okay to move around especially if the story moves from one location to another.*
- **Expressions:** *Your facial expressions make the story believable; you don't need to say as much if you have facial expressions. **Have participants turn to their partner. Using the facial expression sheet on the next page, one person picks 5 expressions that the other person needs to make. Then have the other person do it. A variation is one person makes the expression and the other person needs to guess what it is.*** 
- **Audience Participation:** *Sometimes it is fun to have some or all of the children be involved in actually telling the story. This can happen with:*
 - **Reoccurring Words/Phrases** that the participants can say or respond to
 - **Hand & Body Motions**
 - **Sound Effects**
 - **Song**
 - **Active Participation:** *act out the whole story or different parts of the story*
- **Voice:** *the voice makes the story come alive. What produces boredom within a group or classroom - #1 answer is a monotone voice. Give demonstrations of the following:*
 - **Accents**
 - **Pitch**
 - **Pause:** *This can be very effective in a story and a discussion. Do not be afraid of silence. It allows the Holy Spirit to work in the stillness/quiet which helps the story and the predicament to go from head to heart.*
 - **Pace:** *Talk at a pace that is easy for the kids to follow the storyline.*

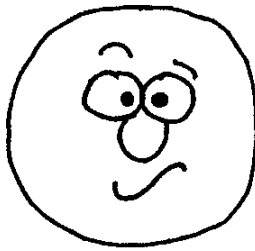
Get into pairs or small groups and each person tells the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water, but this time adding some storytelling techniques. It is imperative that the people stay true to just what the Bible says and not add their own thoughts or implications.



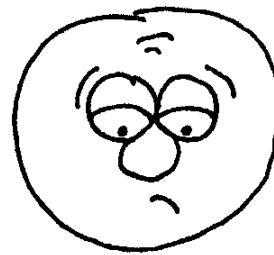
HAVE ONE PERSON BEFORE AND AFTER THE BREAK TELL THE STORY



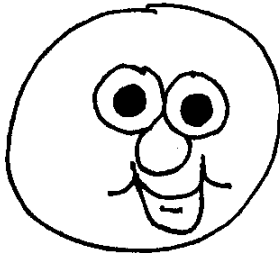
Confident



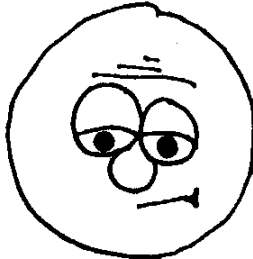
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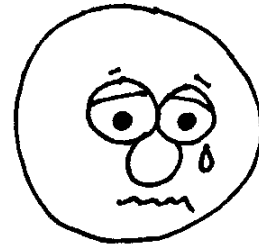
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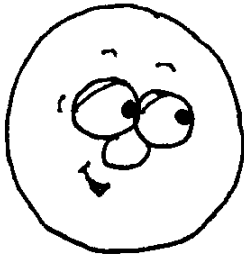
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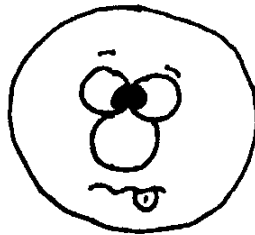
Frustrated



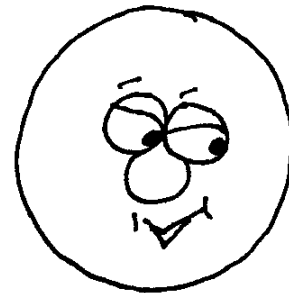
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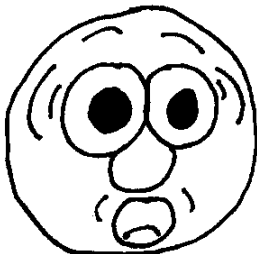
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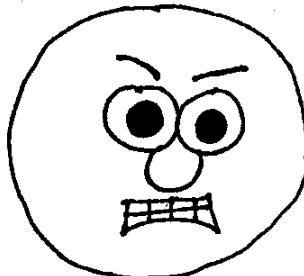
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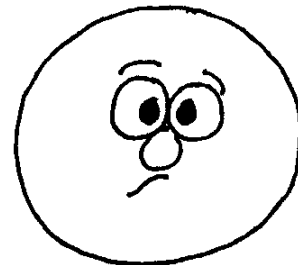
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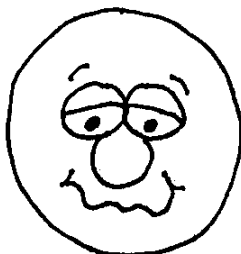
Frightened



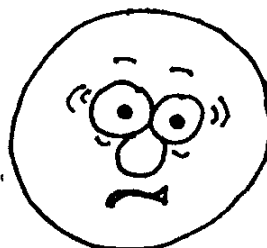
Angry



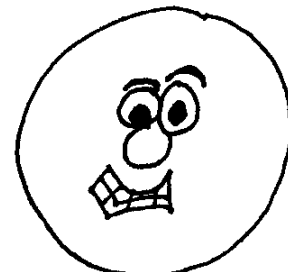
Lonely



In Love



Anxious



Jealous

SESSION: Retell the Story



It is important that the people now retell the story for any clarifications and Biblical accuracy. One way is if the participants have a Bible, have them open them and re-read the story from the scriptures. This can be done by someone reading the story or the leader asking sequential questions which everyone then answers by looking at the Word. It may be helpful to incorporate group activities to engage the children into the story. This also helps them to remember the story so they can retell it to someone else.

*Who remembers what the universals are that exist in every culture? (belonging, games, music, the arts and stories) We can use these in our retell time. Especially for kids, games are good to help them focus on what you are doing. We are going to play some simple **GAMES** with things you can find just about anywhere.*

Utilize one game for the group to play in retelling the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water. Then assign each group an activity from the different universals below. Leave enough time for the groups to demonstrate at the end.



GAMES

- **Beach Ball:** certain key questions for any Bible story can be written on a beach ball with a permanent marker. Wherever the child catches the ball is the question they need to answer. You might use the Possible Core Questions found on page 24.
- **Circle Toss:** A ball or other soft object is tossed throughout the small group and the person who has been tossed the ball needs to tell the next thing that happened in the Bible story. Using a balloon can be quite exciting to play with as well.
- **Timer:** Use a watch, someone counting or an egg timer and see how much of the Bible story the group can tell in the allotted amount of time.
- **Knot You:** Take a 5-yard piece of rope and tie it together to make a circle. Have the kids grab onto the rope. At your command, the kids move the rope clockwise and when you say, "Stop," whoever has the knot has to answer a question you have about the Bible story or tell what happened next in the story.
- **Story Cards:** Write or draw the different segments of the Bible story on separate sheets of paper. Give them to different children in the class and have the children get in order of the story line. You could also give them a certain amount of time to do it in or write out 2 or more copies of the story line and have several groups of children trying to be the first group to finish.
- **Musical Chairs:** Set up chairs in a circle with one less than the number of people in the group. As music is being played, people move around the circle. When the music stops, everyone finds a chair. The one standing tells the next part of the story. Continue until the story is retold.
- **Dice Game:** Give the dice to one child who begins telling the story. Then they roll the dice and the number that appears is how many people you count clockwise. The person you stop at has to tell the next part of the story. Then roll the dice and whoever that number lands on tells the next part until the story is retold.



ART

- **Graffiti Wall:** As a group, have the children write words or draw pictures which tell the story.
- **Personal drawing:** The children draw a color a picture of the part of the story they liked best.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** have each child design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story
- **Pipe Cleaners & Play Doh/Clay:** use these or other available craft items to build and retell the story
- **Billboard:** Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.
- **Pictionary:** different parts of the story are given out and the person needs to draw it till someone guesses what it is.



DRAMA

- **Act-it-Out:** Assign different parts of the story to children in the group. Have them practice and then act out the story to the rest of the group.
- **Charades:** Without using words, the kids act out the different scenes while the audience has to guess which part of the story they are doing.
- **Re-read the Bible story** and come up with different sound effects and/or motions for words or actions that repeat throughout the story.
- **Object(s)** (ie: scarf, rope): See how many times they can use the object to tell the story. You can also give each group 3 different random objects to use in retelling the story.
- **Motions:** Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can assign one motion to each child or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two children will can hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several children to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the children get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still and then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as you tell the story.
- **Puppets:** Create simple puppets from things like socks, paper plates, paper cups and sticks to retell the story



MUSIC

- **Rap Review:** Have the kids create a rap to the main events of the story.
- **New Lyrics to a Familiar Song:** Have the children pick a simple children's song and change the words so the Bible story is being told through a song.
- **Rhythm:** Have the group come up with a beat and then tell the story as you do the beat
- **Dance:** create a dance that would tell the story. Put some background music to it



WRITING

- **Storybooks:** the story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook (or comic) format
- **Journals:** the children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit and journal what was in the story and what it meant to them.
- **Top Ten:** have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.
- **What's Next:** Have each child write out what God wants them to do with what they heard in the story
- **Comparisons:** Have each child pick one of the characters in the story that was told. Have them draft a chart that expresses how they are similar and how they are different than the Bible Character.

SESSION: Discover and Response Questions.



Asking the questions and the discussion that follows is critical in the storying process! Just knowing the information is not the most important thing. A leader should move the group from remembering some of the facts in the story to how it makes them feel. This allows the Holy Spirit to do His work and change a person's life so they are becoming more like Jesus Christ. Jesus himself always asked questions to move people to a deeper understanding and a transformation of the heart. Facilitating discussions helps children discover the treasures in the Bible and gets the Bible into their hearts.

*When you ask questions, people start discovering God's truths for themselves; it's not just told to them. It then sinks deeper into their hearts and lives. **It's not about what you know – it's about them discovering God's truths for themselves! DISCOVER QUESTIONS** build an interactive discussion around these areas:*



Head (facts) These questions help us to remember “**what**” happened in the story



Heart (feelings) Spend a considerable amount of time allowing people to experience the different feelings the story has produced in them and answer “**so what**” or “**why.**” Be sensitive and follow the Holy Spirit's leading when to dig deeper into people's responses. Don't always be satisfied with the first response.

*The discussion then ends with a couple of **RESPONSE QUESTIONS** for each person to make a personal response. Here the Holy Spirit is showing up and speaking to each person in your group. It will probably be different for each person. This is good as it is the Holy Spirit at work.*

*Sometimes you may be addressing a **specific topic or concern** by using a Bible story through the Storying method. Here it might be good to direct certain questions to lead in this way but not necessarily forcing a certain answer. Review and follow-up is important. See **how** each person is doing in their obedience to what God has said. These questions deal with:*



Hands (implications) – “now what”

Examples of all these questions can be found on pages 25-26.** You might use the following questions as the ones to start with, filling in with other ones as you are preparing your lesson. **This is not a check-list of questions to go through but a discovery of what the Holy Spirit is wanting to do in a person's heart and life.

POSSIBLE CORE QUESTIONS:

- What did you wonder about as the story was being told? (Head/Heart)
- What part of the story did you really like? What did you like about it? (Head)
- What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made? (Head)
- Something I learned about God is ... What difference will this make in how you love and live for (serve) Him? (Heart)
- Do you want to know God like this? Is there something happening right now in your life where God could help you? (Heart)
- What is God (the Holy Spirit) wanting you to do because of today's story? (Hand)

POINTS TO REINFORCE:

- Other than some initial head questions, you are not looking for one right answer. After asking an open-ended question, allow for several people to respond. Remember, we are looking for learning and revelation to occur through everyone's responses.
- To some responses you will want to follow-up with other probing questions. See what else the Holy Spirit is wanting to reveal from the initial response. Ask questions like: "What made you feel or think that way?" or "Why is that important to you?" Be sensitive to maintaining a safe environment for people to share.
- When you as the leader are asked a question, push it back to the group for discussion. Often when the leader gives the first response, the dialog is finished. Pushing it back to the group allows the group to think and give further insight.
- If you are asked a question and you and the group do not have an answer, let the children know that it was such a good question, you will need to go home and find out the answer.

Have the participants get into groups of 3 people. Have one person tell the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water. Another person is selected as the leader. As a group, using the questions on pages 25-26, come up with:

- **3 Head Questions**
- **3 Heart Questions**
- **2 Hand/Response Questions**



Using these questions, and possibly the Core Questions above, have the leader facilitate a discussion with their small group. An alternative is for each person to take the lead role: one person leads the Head Questions, another the Heart and the last person facilitates the Hand Questions.

DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS



Discover Questions – Head (Facts):

- *My goal is to understand the content of the story.*
- *What does the story say? What happened in the story?*
- *I want to KNOW God through His Word.*



- What did you like about today's story?
- Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell as the story was told?
- What stood out to you in the story?
- What was God/Jesus teaching them in this story?
- Today, I learned that God/Jesus is _____.
- Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand?
- What was God/Jesus teaching or showing them in this event?
- What is something you learned today about ...
 - God?
 - Jesus?
 - What it means to follow Jesus?
 - Yourself?
- Who are the characters in our story today? I am most like _____.
- What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
- How did someone's behavior or attitude change in the story?
- In what ways is our situation like the one in today's story?

Discover Questions – Heart (Feelings):

- *My goal is to connect emotionally and spiritually with the story, allowing the story to penetrate my heart. How does the story relate to my life?*
- *Why is the story important? Why is it important to me?*
- *I want to LOVE God through His Word.*



- What do you feel was the most important part of today's story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story? How would you have felt if _____ ?
- What did you wonder about as the story was being told?
 - What kinds of emotions do you think _____?
 - What feelings do you think motivated _____?
 - What do you think it was like _____?
- What surprised you or amazed you about today's story?
- Which character in today's story do you most relate to?
- What do you feel is really important to God/Jesus?
- After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself?
- Has God ever used you _____?
- Why do you suppose _____?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible?
- How did this story challenge you or encourage you?

Response Questions – Hands (Action)



- *My goal is to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to respond to and apply what I've learned from the story. How should I apply the story to my life?*
 - *What does God want me, specifically, to do with what I have learned from the story?*
 - *I want to SERVE God by obeying what I've learned from His Word.*
-
- From what you learned today, what do you feel God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is asking you to do?
 - What do you think God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is saying to you?
 - What should you do differently because of today's story? What difference will this make in how you love and serve Him?
 - What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story? How can you practice this week?
 - How should we respond to God/Jesus today?
 - After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
 - Is there something happening right now in your life where God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit could help you?
 - Who can you share this story with this week?
 - How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?

FOCUS PEOPLE ON THE STORY:

What happens when kids get off on other topics or things not related to the story? Keep pushing them back to the story for their answers. *What did the story say about that? Let's go back and see.*

- **Tangents:** Some people get distracted or go off on other subjects. When this happens, here are some suggestions:
 - *Where do you see that in today's story? That is what we're discussing now.*
 - *Maybe later we can talk about what you have brought up.*
- **Theology:** People have questions or thoughts about God that are hard to answer: *What do you see in the story?* As a leader you will need to decide whether now is the best time to address a big issue/question about God.
- **Questions:** Be sure to give ample opportunity for everyone to answer the question you've asked the group before addressing other questions. If time allows, other related questions can be considered. Pausing is also good. It allows people to be still and ponder what God is stirring within them.

SESSION: Final Assignment



Have participants get in their small groups. Give each group one of the following stories. If there are more than 12 groups, it is okay to give the same story to more than one group.

Using the Lesson Planning Sheet found on the next page, you might give each group a certain amount of time for each section to ensure that the whole lesson is planned in the allotted amount of time.



- Healing the Paralytic: Luke 5:17-26
- The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
- Feeding of the 5000: John 6:1-14
- Ten Lepers Healed: Luke 17:11-19
- Persistent Widow: Luke 18:1-8
- Prayers of Pharisee and Tax Collector: Luke 18:9-14
- Healing of the Blind Man: Luke 18:35-42
- Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
- Peter Healing the Lame Man: Acts 3:1-10
- Elisha and the Widow's Oil Jars: II Kings 4:1-7
- Samuel Hearing God's Voice: I Samuel 3:1-14
- David is Anointed as King: I Samuel 16:1-13

Have the people in each group share ideas of how they would present the lesson and come up with one lesson plan. If more than one group has been assigned a story, then these groups can combine to discuss and practice the lesson. Present as many lessons as possible in the time remaining.

For the presentation, each group should assign different people to present each of the sections. Depending on time, the Opening and the Questions should only be mentioned but not actually done by the whole class. The Background, the Telling of the Story and the Retell should be done either by the whole class or demonstrated by another small group.

After the presentation, give feedback to the presenting group. Look for the different ways in which they were creative and did well in their work. Look for one area that could be done differently for better results. Particularly look for times when the story has been embellished and not remained accurate to the Bible.

LESSON PLANNING SHEET



Opening:

- Choose a question or activity that children can share a personal story.
- Will the answer generate an emotion that the child had?
- Ask a question that needs an answer more than “Yes” or “No.”



Background:

- Are there words that need to be defined?
- Is the geographical location important to know?
- Are there events that happened before the story that are important to know?
- Are there cultural differences that would be important to explain?
- Are there things from previous stories that would be good to review?



Tell the Story:

- Can I involve the children in the story?
- Are there some dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging and interactive?
- Is there a visual object to show the group?
- Are there parts of the story that need to be crafted, like lists of names and places?
- Is the length of the story good for the children to learn so they can tell others?
- Is there a person in the story that I want to tell it from their experience?



Retell:

- What do my students really enjoy doing?
- Is there an activity that I have not used for a while that would engage the children?
- Are there enough supplies for all the children to participate?
- Are the children being Biblically accurate when they retell the Bible story?



Discover Questions:

- Have I prayed about this lesson to have an idea of where the Holy Spirit might lead this discussion?
- Do I have questions that engage the heart and not just the head?
- What part of the story will best relate to where the children are? Do I have questions to help move the discussion in that direction should the Holy Spirit lead that way?
- How will I end the lesson – what response question would be best?

SESSION: Closing & Vision Casting



Depending on who has attended your workshop, there are different messages you can leave them with. The one described here is to start KIDStory Clubs in their communities. Another important component is finding people whom they will apprentice to keep multiplying the ministry to reach and disciple more children.

Give an example of what a 90 minute KIDStory Club may look like.

Have participants close their eyes and imagine the children the Lord has placed in their lives – and those still to come. Imagine them coming to a place where everything they have learned is happening. What expressions do they have on their faces? What are they saying? How do you feel being there?



What changes do you need to make to see these things happen? What will your ministry look like in 3, 6, 12 months from now? (Large group response.)

What is the Lord asking of you now? Give them the quiet space and place to write out their response and what their first step is going to be. Who is someone the Lord may have you invite to join and apprentice with you? If there is time, have them share with another person and pray with one another.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Facebook page
- Website: katw.net and katw-kidstory.com
- KIDStory@Home materials
- Training manuals
- Bible Stories lessons. (Jesus Film, Years A, B, C, D, Experiencing God, Book of Acts)
- Training videos
- Affiliation form
- Certificate
- Group photo
- Closing prayer

APPENDIX: KIDStory Club Cheat Sheet



KIDStory Clubs

Welcome:

- Greet children and create an environment where they are welcomed
- Formal opening to the club time
- Prayer

The Welcome is a time to gather the children together, have them feel welcomed and get connected with the leader and their friends.

Games:

- Have fun!!
- Children and leaders are engaged, where relationships are being built.
- Choose games where all the children can be involved.

You want to create a safe environment where children are having fun, everyone is involved and want to invite their friends.

Large Group:

KidConnect: children gather in small

- groups with their leaders to share stories from the week which includes following-up on previous decisions from answering the Hand Questions. The Opening could be done here or in the Large Group.
- Worship: connecting with God.
- Background and creative telling of the Bible story
- Story Review and possibly one ReTell activity

Discipleship continues as personal interaction can happen with the KidConnect time and following-up on previous answers to Hand Questions. The Bible story is told in ways that children can imagine being there.

There is community through small group interaction and connecting with God through worship and His Word.

Small Group:

- ReTell the Bible Story using a variety of activities each week
- Ask head, heart and hand questions
- Close in prayer and give a blessing

This is a time to show love and care while discipling the children with God's Word and in response to the Spirit's leading.

Closing:

- Volunteer to retell the Bible story.
- Closing words, announcements, prayer
- Greet parents

Bring the club meeting to a close, creating enthusiasm to return with testimonies and friends.

APPENDIX: Guidelines



PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

(Before starting your Bible Storying session, discuss these guidelines with the participants.)

- **Everyone welcome:** We want to create a safe place for everyone to participate.
- **Participation:** The hope is everyone will join in the conversation. It is okay to pass if a question comes your way or to say, “I don’t know.”
 - **Not consensus:** For the most part we are not looking for the one right answer. The Holy Spirit will reveal different things to each of us depending on various factors. Our experiences, how we grew up and what we know will give different perspectives to the same story.
- **Be open and honest:** Growing closer to the Lord and with each other will only happen when we can be honest and share what is happening to us. You will find that many times other kids struggle with the same things we do.
- **"I" statements:** Don’t talk about “the church this” or “they that” or “we should” – keep it to “I” statements and what God is saying to you.
- **Current & previous stories only:** Discussing today’s and other stories we have studied puts everyone in the same place with equal knowledge of the story being told. Participants should not bring in other Biblical knowledge or stories other than the ones previously discussed by the group.
- **Imaginative listening:** Try to place yourself in the story as it is being told. What do you see, smell, and hear? What are the other characters doing? What emotions do you feel?

LEADER GUIDELINES

- **Prayer:** It is critical to be still before the Lord so you can hear the whisperings of the Holy Spirit. This is not about a leader's performance and results but the Holy Spirit being able to work in and through people's lives.
- **Co-learners:** As a leader, you don't need to have all the answers – keep pushing it back to the Bible passage and for others to give input. You need to go into a storying session believing that you are going to learn from the other participants.
- **Safe Environment:** For any learning to happen, people need to be safe, which can be created by:
 - **Knowing Your Audience:** spiritually, emotionally, personal issues
 - **Physically:** room temp; room lay out and equipment.
 - **Mentally:** no put downs or sarcasm; use lots of affirmations
 - **Spiritually:** the Holy Spirit can bring revelation to everyone no matter how long they have been a Christ follower.
- **Expect God Encounters:** Go into the story expecting God to intersect His Story with our stories. Too often we get into the mode of transferring or dumping information on the participants.
- **Transparency:** When appropriate, it is good to be one with the group and allow yourself to be vulnerable and transparent.
- **Listen**
 - **Holy Spirit:** There will be times when you hear the Holy Spirit asking you to delve deeper into a person's response and to ask more questions; this does not need to happen with everyone. People are used to giving the "Jesus, Bible, love, God" responses – when appropriate it is good to ask them for a more specific response.
 - **Participants:** Don't be quick with your answers or "this is what I would do" or "what you should do is..." Listen to the heart of what people are communicating; connect ideas and responses of the participants and previous stories. Don't be afraid of silence. The Holy Spirit often speaks when we are still.
 - **Yourself:** This is not about you and what you know. Listen to the ramblings going on in your head and lay aside all that stuff and be in tune to the individuals and their responses. You don't need to have the answer - God will provide.



Jesus Sends Out the Disciples

Mark 6:7-13

① Second Day Welcome

Greet participants and if time permits, get some feedback from what they experienced the previous day. *Before we start our day, I would like to do another story with you and have us look at what Jesus expects of us as we minister in His name.*

② OPENING

Share a time when you felt like you made a difference in someone's life.

③ BACKGROUND →

④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

⑤ RETELL

Story Review: Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

Musical Chairs: Set up chairs in a circle with one less than the number of people in the group. As music is being played, people move around the circle. When the music stops, everyone finds a chair. The one standing tells the next part of the story. Continue until the story is retold.

BACKGROUND

Jesus has been teaching and healing throughout the land. He returns to his home town of Nazareth and finds that the people have little faith in him being God's Son. Because of that, he is only able to do a few healings. This is where we will begin our Bible story from the book of Mark.

BIBLE STORY

And Jesus called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two. He gave them his power and authority to deal with the enemy and to cast out evil spirits.

These were the instructions Jesus gave them: Take nothing with you – no extra food, no extra clothes or money. You may take with you a walking stick, the sandals on your feet and the cloak on your back.

(story continues on next page)

⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about the story?
- What were the disciples not allowed to take?
- What did they have?
- What amazes you about what happened in this story?
- What choices did the disciples make? What happened because of those choices?
- What do you depend on/think you have to have to do God's work?
- How does this story stretch you in how God may want you to do ministry?

⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of what I learned today, I feel the Holy Spirit is telling me to

- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

"Wherever you go," Jesus said, "stay in the same house until you leave town. But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust from your feet as you leave as a warning to them."

So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins. Life could be different for them if they turn to God. And they cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with olive oil and they were healed.

CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, I ask for your anointing upon each person here. May they continually remember that you are enough – that You give us everything we need to further Your Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

APPENDIX: Multiple Intelligences

Intelligence	Strengths	Teaching
Word Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of words • Listening • Reading & writing • Speaking • Memorizing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell or read stories • Use journal writing • Engage students in discussion
Music Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Rhythm • Pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn truths through songs • Encourage song writing • Use music to set the mood
Logic Smart: Math & Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers • Logical reasoning • Organization • Problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze what is studied • Ask probing, thinking questions • Involve students in problem solving
Picture Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Drawing • Imagination • Use of pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pictures, posters, maps & videos • Let students draw their understandings • Plan arts & crafts activities
Body Smart: Physical Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics • Dance • Hand skills • Acting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act out stories with drama & role-play • Use physical movement, games, dance • Have students build models of what they study
People Smart: Interacting with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with others • Debates • Awareness of others' needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inter-active learning (small groups, etc) • Do service projects • Include mingling and get-acquainted time
Self Smart/ Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding self • Introspection • Self motivation • Meditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make time for quiet reflection • Plan independent study times • Debrief learning one-on-one • Journal, draw
Nature Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces • Things of nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that connect with nature • Use natural spaces to tell stories • Use items from nature as discussion starters or metaphor

APPENDIX: Paradigm Shifts Using KIDStory

The following are paradigm shifts found on *Simply the Story* website. (simplythestory.org) People may face these when learning and using KIDStory, especially people who are trained and experienced in a literate style of Scripture preparation and ministry. Some challenges are due to the content and others are due to the methods we use to train. Not everyone will face all of these shifts, but most of us will face some:

- Using questions instead of lecture to deliver information.
- Answering questions with questions.
- The teacher is not the central focus; the Word of God is the focus.
- Opens door to teach deeply those formerly rejected as unteachable.
- By using questions that cause thinking, the Holy Spirit has room to teach.
- Achieves results through non-traditional teaching structure.
- The very core of KIDStory trains people to teach others.
- Allows teachers to be impacted through those who are taught.
- Teaching is independent of written material or physical devices.
- Equips people to minister in and outside of a Christian environment.
- When people can discover for themselves, the teacher then gives more information.
- Information is not outrightly told; questions assist others to find for themselves.
- Vibrant discussion occurs, but content can stay controlled.
- Teachers learn to listen well and respond to input from those they lead.
- Not using information outside the story or material outside the Bible.
- Literates learn to operate inside the world of oral communicators.
- Gain skills of preparing and sharing Scripture without always having written notes.
- To trust the Word and the Holy Spirit to do the work of transforming lives.
- Body unity results from common ground of staying in one passage.
- To be comfortable discussing story ideas not on prepared mental list.
- Young people can discover spiritual information valuable to others.
- Non-literates can gather deep spiritual truth from God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit prompts the application for each individual.
- Both those new to and familiar with Scripture learn alongside one another.
- Socio-economic and ethnic prejudices lose significance.
- People who feel superior start seeing the value in others as God does.
- The depth of what can be found in a short passage astounds all.
- KIDStory stimulates teachers and listeners to think more deeply.
- Remembering Scripture content is as valid as memorizing, and easier!
- Literates are able to learn Bible passages without seeing the printed page.
- People can co-lead easily utilizing KIDStory.
- Workshop schedules can be flexible according to needs of the attendees.
- Teachers act as interested learners rather than all-knowing superiors.
- People taught by story remember content and share with others.



APPENDIX: KIDSTORY AFFILIATION



MINISTRY INFORMATION



Name of church or ministry:	
Denomination (if applicable)	
City and State:	Country:
Name of Ministry Leader:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Person leading Children's Ministry (if applicable):	
Phone:	E-mail:
PROJECTIONS	
Number of KIDStory groups:	
Number of children in KIDStory groups:	

Kids Around the World provides resources that empower the local church to reach and disciple children. That's why we share KIDStory materials for free.

If you want to be part of the KIDStory movement, signing this form will allow us to follow-up with you and the ministry you serve in. Your part in this movement will be to pray for and encourage other members and to provide periodic data and testimonial stories.

Your Name _____ Signature _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ministry Role: _____

Workshop Location: _____ Date: _____



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