

PASSING ON FAITH

GOD STORIES

IT'S HIS STORY, AND IT'S WORTH TELLING.



November 9

Knowing & Telling Your God Story

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Passing on Faith Series

- Designed by God: His plan for generations
 - OT... Strategy for passing on faith
 - Deut 6 – Use every opportunity to explain God and your faith to your children
 - NT... Strategy for passing on faith
 - Great commission: Go, make disciples! (Matt 28)
 - Salt & Light (Sermon on the mount – Matt 5:13–16)
 - How will anyone know about Jesus unless we tell them? (Rom 10:14–17)
 - Christ's ambassadors – God makes his appeal through us! (1 Cor 5:18–21)

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The Power of Story

- We are captivated from early childhood with great stories... *“Read it again, Daddy!”*
- Stories have the ability to move us deeply and evoke strong passions within us
- We are drawn into great sagas where the hero prevails against insurmountable odds
- Jesus was a master storyteller – he understood the power of story

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1 Peter 3:16-17

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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Elements of a Compelling God Story

- Plot... It has one
 - Beginning... Before I met Jesus
 - Climax... Jesus rescues me
 - Ending... After I met Jesus
- Characters... Every good story has a villain and a hero (You are NOT the hero, Jesus is)
- Problem... Life without Jesus – ruled by sinful desires and rebellion against God

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1 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

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1 Corinthians 5:17-21

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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God Story Killers

1. Long-winded

- This is not your life story, it's a story that has one point... Jesus rescued me and this is what changed
- Important not to make the person wish they hadn't asked
- Allow room for questions

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God Story Killers

1. Long-winded

2. Weird

- Stay away from stories that highlight the unexplainable
- God stories focus on Jesus' rescue, not weird and wonderful but unexplainable events

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God Story Killers

1. Long-winded

2. Weird

3. Christianese

- We have a very rich heritage with beautiful language like justification, sanctification, regeneration, salvation, born again, personal Lord and Saviour, etc. but the average person on the street does not have a clue what these things mean
- Get rid of the Christianese!

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God Story Killers

1. Long-winded
2. Weird
3. Christianese
4. Convoluted
 - Keep your story to one plot line and limited characters (i.e. you and Jesus)
 - Too many stories become confusing when they are not straight forward and simple

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God Story Killers

1. Long-winded
2. Weird
3. Christianese
4. Convoluted
5. Superiority Complex
 - Watch out for arrogance!
 - Pious remarks and haughty assumptions
 - “You’re fortunate I’m here to help you...”

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God Story Tips

1. Keep it Brief
2. Keep it Simple
3. Keep it Clear
4. Keep it Humble
5. Keep it Authentic

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Resources

Just Walk Across the Room by Bill Hybels



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Homework...

Write your God Story

- Keep it between 2-3 minutes
- Come prepared to share it with your community group



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Why Knowing & Telling Your Story Matters...

1. Obedience – God told us to be prepared
2. Your kids need to know your story!
3. Mission – God has placed you where you are so that the light of Christ will shine in you. Your mission field is Cold Lake!
4. God wants to partner with us to reach Cold Lake with the life-saving message of Jesus!

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