

TIPS FOR BIBLE STORYTELLING WITH DIALOGUE

(Generic Dialogue Questions May be Used with Any Story)

After telling the story, the storyteller dialogues with his listeners by asking Generic Dialogue Questions. Generic Dialogue Questions may be asked with any Bible story.

The storyteller becomes a facilitator who helps story-listeners dialogue about the story. He helps his listeners talk about the story without determining what they discuss. The storyteller is not the teacher who controls the life-lessons his students will learn. He should release control over the discussion and let the story-listeners discover for themselves life-

lessons from the story to apply to their lives. The storyteller is on a story-journey as a fellow traveler with his story-listeners.

The storyteller should not expect everyone to see the same life-lessons that he sees. The story-listeners have different emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual needs. Bible stories have their own DNA that produce different life-lessons for different listeners. The stories go where they need to go in each listener's life.

Some Dos and Don'ts for Dialoguing about a Bible Story

Don't	Do
1. Don't expect everyone to like every story you tell.	1. Do engage the story-listeners in activities and discussions that help them grasp the meaning of the story.
2. Don't expect everyone to see the same life-lessons as you do.	2. Do allow the story-listeners to express their opinions without being made to feel "right" or "wrong."
3. Don't control, but guide and allow the story-listeners to discover the life-lessons for themselves.	3. Do pay attention, listen, and allow viewpoints to be expressed and respected.
4. Don't give the story-listeners the life-lessons you want them to discover. Let them find life-lessons for themselves.	4. Do expect the Holy Spirit to guide your listeners to the life-lessons they need.
5. Don't say, "No, you're wrong." Do say, "Why do you say that?"	

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTION

Suggested dialogue questions are included; however, the storyteller needs to realize that Bible stories speak for themselves. They will touch listeners in ways that the storyteller can neither know nor guess. If listeners start talking about a story as soon as the storyteller finishes, he should let them

head in the direction they wish to go. He should not feel obligated to control the discussion.

The following dialogue questions are generic. They may be asked about any Bible story, and they may be used with any group. All story-listeners will be able to participate in

the dialogue, including those who have little biblical knowledge, and those who know the Bible and are mature Christians.

These generic dialogue questions will be listed without comment at the end of each story within the *Short Bible Storying Track*. Here I am including some explanations about each suggested dialogue question.

1. What catches your attention in the story?

With this question, there are no right nor wrong answers. Each listener should feel free to express his opinion. Allow the story-listeners to express their opinions without being made to feel “right” or “wrong.”

2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?

This is another question that allows the story-listeners to express their opinions without being made to feel “right” or “wrong.” Listening to the answers will help the storyteller discover the needs of his story-listeners. When you disagree with an answer, don’t say, “No, you’re wrong.” Do say something similar to, “Why do you have problems with that?”

3. Who are the main characters in the story?

This question motivates the listeners to discuss the characters in the story. Stories are character driven. Characters act, experience conflict and undertake the struggles in a story. The events in the story are generated by the key-characters’ predicaments.

4. What problems did the characters face?

This question allows the story-listeners to identify problems faced in the story. Stories are about characters, their struggles and their conflicts.

5. How did the characters face their problems?

This question helps the story-listeners identify the reactions of the key-characters to their problems. Pay attention to how the listeners judge the rightness or wrongness of each character’s actions and choices.

6. How have you faced similar problems?

This is a question to help the story-listeners identify with the story. It will help the listener relate the Bible story to their own experiences.

7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?

This question helps the Holy Spirit have freedom to guide the story-listeners to life-lessons they need to apply to their own lives.

8. What does the story tell about God?

This question helps the story-listeners see God in each Bible story. Bible stories are not the stories of Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, Mary, Peter and Paul. They are the stories of God’s involvement in the lives of Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, Mary, Peter and Paul. God is the key-character of the Bible and each story is about God.