

Yesterday. Today. Forever.

Module: Sharing the Story

Lesson 3: God's Story: How It Can Be Told

Objectives:

Students will...

- retell God's story in everyday-language (i.e. minimal Christian jargon)
- identify key components from God's story with contemporary examples
- create a storyboard of God's story incorporating their contemporary examples

Materials Needed:

- paper, pens
- chart paper or Bristol board and markers
- optional: one 'storyboard' handout for each student
- one piece of chart paper with the words 'sin, atonement, save, believe/belief and repent' written on it in large print
- images (magazines, especially 'movie' magazines, books, a laptop with a printer)
- glue or tape
- the storyboards from lesson 2 in this module
- small prizes (e.g. small candies)

Minds On

Approximately 15 minutes

Think/pair/share: In the previous lesson, students committed to sharing their ‘storyboards’ of God’s story with another person. Ask the students to think about their experience of sharing the story, then turn to a partner and share. After giving the student a few minutes to discuss, ask them to share something they heard a partner say, or something they said to their partner. Ask them to be sure to use their partner’s name. Take 3-4 answers.

Instructional Note: Keeping students on task

While students are discussing, keep listening to what is being discussed. When you start hearing conversations moving off-topic, ask “Hands up if you need more time.” Gauge how much more time is appropriate e.g. if most people put up their hands, give them 2 minutes; if only a few, 30 seconds; if no one, move to the next instruction.

Game: Taboo

Choose 3 volunteers (have at least one be an adult leader). Have all the volunteers leave the room. While the volunteers are out, put the chart paper with the taboo words on the wall, and tell the remaining students to make a buzzer noise every time the volunteer says one of the words on the list. Bring the volunteers back one at a time.

Prompt: Behind you on the wall is a list of five taboo words. Your job is to tell God’s story using as few of those words as possible. Every time you use one of the words, the audience will sound a buzzer. You must try guess the taboo word, and try to not use it again.

Count the number of buzzer noises. Give awards to volunteers who tell God’s story using the fewest “taboo” words, or if possible, none.

Prompt: As we see here, especially if you've grown up in a church, it's hard not to use these words that have a lot of meaning in our church context but are more confusing meanings outside our church walls. In this lesson, we'll take another look at God's story, trying to use everyday language.

Ask students to define each of the following words in everyday language: take call outs.

- sin
- atonement
- save
- believe / belief
- repent

Action

Approximately 50 minutes

Tell the students they are going to take another look at the storyboards from last week, to remember the big points from the storyboard, and then to try to retell the stories using modern or contemporary representations from the news, from stories, TV or movies, without using Christian jargon words.

Tell them in a moment you will divide them into groups where they will recall the main points from the storyboard. Using numbered heads, divide students equally into the same number of groups as there are storyboards from the previous lesson. (If there are 4 storyboards, there will be 4 groups, so number students from 1-4) Before dismissing the groups, give one storyboard to a representative from each group. Before you say "go", specify where each group will meet. Ask students to repeat where you want each group to gather. Dismiss them into their groups.

After the groups have discussed for a few minutes, get the students' attention, and ask them to point out the main ideas or "non-negotiables" in God's story (i.e. what are parts

that are fundamental to the story). Check for understanding, and gently correct any errant thinking, using the overview from the previous week.

Next tell the students they will have 20 minutes to find contemporary representations for each element on the storyboard. (e.g. Someone might use the superhero character “Thor” to represent God. There may be a specific scene from a movie or book that is similar to one of the frames.) Their task is to create a new storyboard using the contemporary examples.

Circulate around the room as each group works and listen in on their ideas. If a group is stuck, offer questions to stimulate their discussion without taking over the conversation. Warn the groups when 5 minutes remain, and when two minutes remain. Ask for a volunteer (or two) from each group to be prepared to present their modernized storyboard. Give the students a few moments to negotiate who will present, then ask the groups to share.

Note: Images can come from a variety of sources (e.g. magazines, printed pictures, or hand-drawn, even if they are stick figures). The goal is to understand the message being conveyed, not artistic competency. If you offer use of a computer and printer, you will need to institute a policy for sharing so that one group does not monopolize it.

Prompt: The purpose of this exercise isn’t to replace God’s story in the Bible. Rather, it’s to help others not familiar with the Bible to understand God’s story with images and words they recognize. This is called an analogy. You use an image or concept the other person understands to help them understand the concept you’re conveying. In fact, Jesus did this a lot by telling stories people were familiar with in order to help teach a biblical principle. Using an analogy will also deepen your own understanding.

Consolidate/Debrief

Approximately 5 minutes

Have students find a spot in the room by themselves. For a couple of minutes in silence, ask them to choose which part of the story stands out the most to them. Encourage them to ask God to hold that image in their minds this coming week so they can remember God's story.

Challenge the students this coming week to retell God's story to another person outside the group (it could be the same person as last week) with this "contemporary" version of God's story. Have them ask the person if there are any elements they don't understand and bring those items next week.

Note: For some students who are more comfortable using technology, an alternative is for them to create a digital presentation (e.g. on PowerPoint, PowToon (<http://www.powtoon.com/home/>) or Prezi (www.prezi.com)). They can reconstruct their storyboard in their chosen format. After creating it, have them share it with a friend either on social media, by email (or even in person) as well as to you.