

## Keeping the Story Alive

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### 1. What is storytelling?

A. One of the oldest methods of teaching.

- -as far back as history records, there have been storytellers
- -Jesus did most of His teaching through storytelling, the parables



B. Storytelling is an art, and the teller an artist.

- -art cannot be learned, science can. If that is true then storytelling is a little bit of both. Although there are naturals, it can be learned
- -You are painting a picture. The brush you use is important, the colors you use are important, the details, the big picture, the kind of paint, the time you put in, the studying of the subject. Think of yourself as an artist painting a picture. And remember the law of the harvest.

C. The story is a message.

- -think of the story as a message, a point, a principle wrapped in an attractive package.

D. The storyteller is a vessel.

- -This is what makes us different from other storytellers, we tell a story not to entertain, but to change lives. You must not think of yourself not as an actor, although many techniques apply. But you must think of yourself as a vessel through which the principles of Scripture are flowing through.

E. Storytelling is hard work.

- -It takes time, energy, effort, concentration and practice. But it's fun work. And you reap what you sow

## THERE ARE THREE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCES OF A STORY...

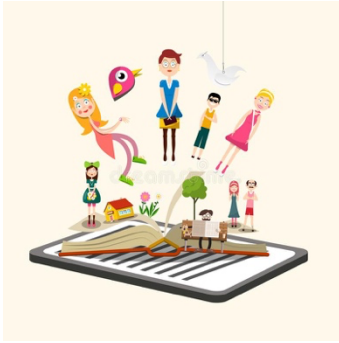
1. You
2. The Story
3. The Audience

### II. YOU

There are some things we have no control over. Like our nervous systems. You are shaking. Your voice is cracking. You're freezing or sweating. You so not have saliva in your mouth and your eye is twitching. Some things will just have to get better with time and practice. Then there are other things we do have control over.

- A. The way you dress for your story.
  - Dress for the occasion.
  - Do not let the way you dress be a distraction.  
(colors, patterns, jewelry, style)
- B. The way you are groomed.
  - Rich or poor, you can wash your hair.
  - If they can smell you, they won't be listening to you.
- C. The way you hang your head. Posture
  - No one wants to look at lump.





### III. YOU AND YOUR VOICE

The quality of the sound of the storytellers voice is crucial. Sound can energize us it can excite us. It can also pierce us and bring us down. Your voice is a tool. You must keep your tool sharpened, honed. It is one of the instruments that God will use in your storytelling.

A. One does not hear only through one's ears.

- -Did you ever hear something in your teeth? Your sinuses?
- -We feel sounds. Your audience feels sounds. So you want those sounds to be the best that they can be.

B. Relaxing your throat and vocal cords.

- -Dropping your jaw
- -Yawning
- -Humming

C. Breathing.

-Diaphragm

D. Focusing your tones.

### IV. THE USE OF YOUR VOICE IN STORYTELLING

A. Narrator's voice

-The most natural

-Unless you are narrating as a character

B. The character's voices

-Using different voices in a story and not saying, "he said" and "she said" makes a big difference. We all have those voices, but are sometimes too shy, or you feel too ridiculous to use them. Get over it  
The singing voice

-A little tune, whether real, familiar or original can add flair to a story that was not there before.

C. Sound effects

-Be careful not to overdo it. They will be listening for the next effect and lose the story.





## V. YOUR STORY

### A. Choosing your story

- -Know the age group you are talking to
- -Be careful of symbolism, especially with young kids
- -Choose a story that fits to the theme or principle you are trying to get across.
- -Be aware of the length of your story and the age of your group
- -Be sure you can make application

### B. Read your story to know your story

- -Do not read your story to the children
- -Do not memorize your story
- -Know your story

### C. Write your story to know your story

- -Write it with details

### D. Practice your story

- -In front of a mirror
- -In front of children, kids the same age as audience
- -Audio tape
- -Video tape
- -Evaluate yourself

### E. Know the facts surrounding your story (if it's a true story)

### F. Block out the main parts of your story

## VI. THE DELIVERY (Mentally)

### A. Be "in the moment."

- -Don't be on the next thing that's supposed to happen.

### B. Be wholehearted.

- -As if you are selling product that you believe in. Put everything in it.
- -Be relaxed and sincere. Most kids know when you are not.





C. Be enthusiastic.

- -It is contagious – if you are enthusiastic, the audience be that way

D. Be yourself.

- -If you are trying to imitate somebody, it will look like you are.
- -You will be saying to yourself “Should I move my hand up here like so and so did?”

E. Feel your story.

F. Poise. You will always have interruptions with children. Figure out when to ignore the interruptions, use them in the story or just address them.



## VII. THE DELIVERY (Physically)

A. Your gestures

- -In practice, watch for gestures that are too big or repetitive
- -Be natural and smooth
- -Relax. One way you can tell if you're not relaxed is by looking at your audience. The audience is your real mirror. If you're tense, they will be tense.
- -If you are nervous, they will be nervous. So relax.

B. Facial expressions

- -Use your face. God gave you a face for a reason ☺.
- -Small audience, large audience, close, far away – adapt your facial expressions as needed.

C. Eye contact

- -The eyes are the windows of the soul. Really the eyebrows ☺
- -Connect with your audience.
- -This is the difference between theatre and storytelling. Theatre takes place on the stage. The audience is looking at a story that is taking place on the stage. By making eye contact, you connect with your audience and they become part of your story



#### D. Inflection

- do not be monotone – it is boring.

#### E. Emphasize certain words or phrases

#### F. Pauses can be effective

#### G. Pacing

- Most tell stories too fast

- Most stories have a certain rhythm

### VIII. THE AUDIENCE

#### A. Know your audience

- Age appropriate (vocabulary, symbolism, volume)

- Culture appropriate

- Sometimes you will have to sense how they are and what you have to do connect with them

This means you will have to be a student of your audience

#### B. Make sure interruptions do not interrupt you.

#### C. Be aware of your audience's reactions and respond accordingly.