

Evangelism as Storytelling



Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Evangelism as Storytelling

Module-at-a-Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	P. 5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	20 mins.	P. 6	Presenter provides background and inspiration for the telling the Gospel through stories.
III. Small Group Discussion	15 mins.	P. 8	Participants discuss four questions in order to integrate and apply the information presented in the lecture.
IV. Action Planning/Reporting	15 mins.	P. 9	Participants prepare to make use of the storytelling concepts in daily life.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	P. 9	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 60 mins.			

I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

The purpose of this module is:

To tell stories that convey good news to people

The objectives for this module are:

- **Grasp how God used stories;**
- **Tell your stories and His;**
- **Expand the number of stories you tell friends and family.**

Kristi, a blind girl, told her mother, “I am not going to be afraid anymore.”

“Tell me about that,” said her mother.

“The mailman said I was going to be amazing. That is why I am not going to be afraid.”

My father told stories of his family and brothers. His accounts of independent thinking and strong-willed personalities provided a backdrop for understanding him. As children, we made decisions to follow his preferences or to select another path.

My mother told about the day I came running into kitchen. I said, “Mommy, I feel badly. Would you ask Jesus to make me feel good?” She prayed for me. Because of her prayer, God did a deeper work than attend to my emotions. He placed an unfamiliar desire to please in a formerly demanding child. From that day forward, an underlying desire to please God and others became a formative theme of my life.

Slide 2

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II. Lecture

(20 minutes)

Notes

I. Our Family Stories Shape Us

- A. God **REVEALS** Himself through stories.
- B. The Old Testament **RECORDED** the life accounts of Adam and Eve, Noah's family, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Joshua, Daniel, David, and more.
- C. The New Testament told the **STORIES** about Jesus—conflict with religious leaders about a single woman caught having sex; Nicodemus, a searching religious leader who secretly admired Jesus; Jesus' predictions of His own death and resurrection.
- D. Jesus, the master storyteller, **INTRODUCED** the lost coin, lost sheep, and lost son—stories that point to a searching God (Luke 15).
- E. Peter, Paul, and Stephen told stories and became stories told.

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Slide 4

II. Personal Stories Can be Used

- A. Tell of a prayer God **ANSWERED**.
- B. Describe a time when you or someone you know **EXPERIENCED** God's healing.
- C. Recall when God **GUIDED** you to make a decision.
- D. Recite a series of circumstances that **POINT** to God's involvement.
- E. Tell of influences that **LED** you into God's saving grace.

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Kevin had watched Christians and wondered if he should respond to Christ's personal promptings. For two years, he dated a young lady who was a wonderful example of Christian love and virtue. Her church parents served as positive examples, too.

One day Kevin listened to Bob, one of his coworkers, tell about an accident where a man was swept down river by the flood current. The endangered man swam and fought the angry water, but without success. Suddenly, the river threw the swimmer into a narrow channel near an eroded bank. The man grabbed an exposed root and pulled himself to safety.

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II. Lecture (cont.)

Notes

Bob simply concluded his story, “That guy can thank God He provided something to hang onto.”

Kevin came forward to publicly profess his faith at an altar two Sundays later. As we talked about his decision to follow Jesus, he described the influence of watching godly lives for two years and hearing a story about God resulted in his transformed life.

Notes

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IV. Action Planning/Reporting

Notes

(15 Minutes)

1. What stories might you tell a person who is sick or who has been in an accident?
2. What stories would connect with a person whose faith is faltering?
3. What stories (biblical or personal) could spark hope in another's heart?
4. Who do you know that would respond to a story you tell?

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V. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

End the module by praying together. Based on your group, you may want the entire group to pray together with different people leading, or you may want to instruct the participants to pray in their teams.

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