

Using Stories and Illustrations Connecting Teens to God's Word (part 7)

I. Reasons to use stories

A. To capture our students' _____, to pique their curiosity.
If you find your teens not focusing, try telling a story to bring them back to the day's topic.

B. To _____ that are unclear or difficult to understand.
Jesus made extensive use of parables to describe the Kingdom of God.

C. To demonstrate how spiritual truths
_____ in real life.

D. To _____ action. "If he did it, I can do it too."



II. Finding stories

A. _____ experience.
Teenagers are interested in their leader's Christian journey.

B. _____
Illustrations from nature found in the Bible: eagles, ravens, lilies, the fig tree, the house built on rock and sand, the order of the universe, etc.

C. _____
Real-life situations and people's achievements—even their mistakes and failures—motivate the kids.

D. Our own _____

Stories are all around us, and as a teacher, it's good to notice and collect them.

III. Qualities of a good story

A. The story must be _____ to the students' lives.

B. The story should be _____. Obviously, a story that is boring, or too detailed to keep their attention isn't worth using.

C. The story must be _____. Verify the facts before sharing it.

D. Most stories should be _____.
Note that Jesus' parables are usually short, sometimes just a few verses.

E. Stories should be _____.

F. Stories should be _____.

Overly familiar stories will lose the students' attention.

IV. Stories Created by the Teenagers Themselves

A. Retell a _____ as if it were happening today, or at their school or as an interview between a reporter and an eyewitness to the Bible story.

B. Tell a story from their _____, that relates to the lesson..

C. Write their own _____.

From their obituary, it's usually easy to find out what's important to that teenager.

D. Create situations where teens ask for _____ from another teen.

Give the kids a request for help for a personal problem, then have them write the advice they would send back.

'I'm 16 years old, and I've had a boyfriend for over a year now. We're planning to get married in two years, after we finish school. He thinks we need to see if we're sexually compatible before we get married. He says that's what everyone thinks. It feels a little too soon for me, but I'm afraid of losing him. What should I do? Sofia'

Questions for discussion:

1. Why do you think Jesus told parables so often?

2. Can you recall an interesting story from a class, book or sermon?

3. What other ways are there to encourage teenagers to share stories during your Bible study time?