



How to naturally tell a story to an individual

Telling a story to an individual from God's Word is an easy way to naturally have a spiritual conversation; and, everyone loves a good story! You can tell a story in person, over the phone or in a video call.

Start here: The first step is for you to learn the story! If you haven't learned a story yet, read about how to learn a story on your own (available on the StoryRunners website and as a pdf called "How to learn a story on your own") before reading further.

Step one: Transition to the story.

How you introduce your story will depend on the context. Here are some easy, natural ways to bring up a story:

To introduce a story that is not related to the conversation, say something like:

"I just learned a story from the Bible. Can I tell it to you? I'd love to get your thoughts on it!"

To introduce a story that is related to the conversation, say something like:

"That reminds me of a story from the Bible about _____. Can I tell you that story? I'd love to hear what you think about it."

Step two: Tell them the story! Be your natural, expressive self.

Step three: Ask some general questions.

Ask one or more (depending on how receptive they are) of the following:

- "Have you ever heard that story before?"
- "What did you like in the story?"
- "What did you not like in the story? Was there anything in the story you thought was confusing or hard to understand?"
- "What do you notice about people in the story?"
- "What do you notice about God in the story?"
- "What do you think this story shows about yourself?"

Step four: Ask some more specific questions related to the story itself. Brainstorm these in advance. Here are some examples of questions you could ask:

- Authority: "What kind of needs would you want Jesus to address in your life?" "How would you want Jesus to heal you?"
- Astonishment: "What storms are you facing in your life right now?" "What storms in your life would you like Jesus to calm?"

Step five: Keep exploring and ask permission to share more.

- If your listener is engaged, ask good follow up questions to what they share.



- Ask permission to share how this story is related to your own story/testimony. For example, with the story Astonishment, you could ask, “Can I tell you how God has calmed storms in my life?”
- Ask permission to share the gospel. For example, with Astonishment, you could say something like, “Actually, God didn’t create us to experience storms. But, he wants to offer us hope in the midst of the storms we experience. Could I tell you some more about that?”

Step six: If you get to a point where you can share the gospel but you don’t know how, we recommend using the Knowing God Personally booklet within the God Tools app. You can literally just read each point together, and you will successfully share the gospel!