



How to be an effective storyteller

- 1. Tell Bible stories that you and your listeners will like.**
 - Why must you tell *this* story?
 - What's important to these listeners? How will this story connect to their experiences, priorities, values?
- 2. Take the time to prepare.**
 - Learn your story before you tell it in front of others. Learn the story well so that you know the content well enough that you can focus on delivery.
- 3. Speak with a strong and confident voice.**
 - Speak with clarity and confidence.
 - Enunciate and project your voice towards the listeners.
- 4. Make eye-contact with your listeners.**
 - Look people in the eye.
 - Make eye contact with a variety of people throughout the room.
- 5. Pace yourself.**
 - Speak slowly enough so that the story is easily absorbed by the listeners but not so slowly that the listeners' attention wanders.
 - Tell your story with intentional pauses between scenes.
 - Vary speed, pace and volume of your voice, as appropriate.
- 6. Dialogue/sounds**
 - Roleplay dialogue with character voices.
 - Use other sounds. For example, make weather sounds for wind or rain.
- 7. Facial expressions**
 - Use facial expressions to show the feelings of your characters or their personality.
 - Let the audience see your face.
- 8. Gestures**
 - Prepare the gestures you will use and practice using them so that they are natural and relaxed.
 - Use your hands, shoulders and body as much as you can to *show* objects, scenery, actions and feelings.