

How to learn a story by yourself

When you're accustomed to learning a story in a group from a live storyteller, learning a story from an audio recording might seem boring or even impossible. However, with adaptations, you can learn a story by yourself, using the same learning methods that you experience in a story group.

Let's **review the story learning process** in a story fellowship group:

1. Tell the story twice.
2. Review the story: The group works together to recall the story.
3. Tell the story again using a learning method (see list and descriptions below).
4. The participants tell the story to each other in pairs.
5. A volunteer tells the story.
6. Discuss the story using the following questions:
 - What did you like in the story?
 - What did you not like in the story? What is difficult or confusing about the story?
 - What does the story show about people?
 - What does the story show about God/Jesus/God's Spirit?
 - What does the story show you about yourself? After hearing this story, what do you think needs to change in your life?
 - To whom will you tell the story?

Now let's **adapt the process** for learning a story by yourself.

1. Listen to the previous story for context.
2. Listen to the story to familiarize yourself with the characters, places, events and dialogue. Listen to the story again to identify and to visualize each scene.
3. Retell verbally as much of the story as you can.
4. Tell the story again using one of the learning methods. Instead of an entire group participating in the method, you'll do everything yourself.
5. Tell the story to someone else
6. Tell the story one more time.
7. Process the story devotionally by yourself or with the person who listened to the story in step 5.

Helpful Hints:

1. Don't just memorize the audio version. Knowing the story means that you know what happens at each point in the story so that you can tell it in your own words, while remaining faithful to the Bible.
2. Use the learning methods to help you learn the story, but don't focus on mastering the method. The learning method is simply a means to the goal of mastering the story. (see learning method handout)

3. Always tell your story out loud. Don't tell it just in your head.
4. Practice telling it to others to bring energy and authenticity to your storytelling and to prepare yourself for a live telling.
5. Answer the discussion questions for yourself so that you engage with the story, with its biblical truth and with God. Know how God has used this story in your life because that will bring authenticity to your telling.