

How to lead a story fellowship group

Goal: To consistently model a story fellowship group (SFG), the oral equivalent of a Bible study, that:

1. Is devotionally oriented:

- Welcome (introductions, sharing)
- Worship (singing/music, prayer, etc.)
- Word (telling and learning the story, discussing the story content)
- Works (Discussion questions 5-6)

2. Includes:

- Sharing about telling stories to others
- Retelling the previous story
- Telling the story
- Learning the story
- Discussing the story

Preparation:

1. Practice your story, not just in your head but out loud and with others.
2. How has God used this story in your life? You need to be able to answer this question yourself before you teach the story.
3. Plan worship time and prayer.
4. Select your learning method.

Story learning:

1. Ask a volunteer to tell the previous week's story.
2. Practice the story two times.
3. Piece the story back together. The group works together to recall the story in order to learn the sequence of events. (May need to ask prompting questions)
 - a. Popcorn
 - b. Go in a circle
 - c. Ball toss



4. Tell the story again with a learning method. You will do this two times. The first time you tell the story with the learning method and the second time the participants will tell the story while doing the learning method.
 - a. Drama
 - b. Hand motions
 - c. Objects
 - d. Right/Wrong
 - e. Storyboarding
 - f. Flashcards
5. Pair the participants and have them tell the story to each other. The goal is that each person tells the story at least once. Regroup the individuals when everyone has told the story to their partner.
6. Request a volunteer to retell the story. The individual should be able to tell it without significant omission, distortion or embellishment.

Discussion: (Remember the “rules” – stay within the story, don’t use your Bible, remove all distractions including cell phones, nothing written down)

1. What did you like in the story?
2. What did you not like in the story? Alternate: What did you find difficult or confusing in the story?
3. What does the story tell/show us about people?
4. What does the story tell/show us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
5. How will you apply this story in your own life? (This is an application question that relates to the story, so you can adjust the question to match the story.)
6. To whom will you tell the story?

NOTE: We recommend you have 1.5 hours for your Story Fellowship Group. Make sure you have enough time to learn the story *and* discuss the story fully along with worship and prayer.