STORYRUNNERS®
A Cru Ministry

RETURN TO MAIN MENU

HOW TO LEARN A STORY BY YOURSELF

Purpose:

To learn a story by yourself so that you can share the story in conversation and be able to teach it to others in a Story Group (oral equivalent of a Bible study).

Objectives:

1. Learn an oral Bible story using an oral learning method
2. Process the story devotionally and internalize the story
3. Share the story with others!

Process:

Listen to the audio recording of the story you wish to learn online here: https://www.storyrunners.org/stories-v2/english/ Then follow the process outlined below. You can also watch a video of this process here:

Learn Jesus Calms the Storm Video (3).mp4

1. Listen to the story to familiarize yourself with the characters, places, events and dialogue.
2. Listen to the story again to identify and to visualize each scene. Pay attention to the emotions in the story.
3. Retell out loud as much of the story as you can.
4. Listen to the story again and note any important details that you missed. Retell those parts of the story out loud. Repeat these steps as many times as you need.
5. Tell the story again using one of the learning methods (hand motions, drama, objects, storyboard or flashcards). Instead of an entire group participating in the method, you'll do everything yourself. Use the method that is most helpful to you. Listen to the story

as many times as you need.

6. Tell the story five more times (in front of a mirror or a pet can be helpful).
7. Tell the story to someone else.
8. Process the story devotionally by yourself or with the person who listened to the story.
    - *What did you like in the story?*
    - *What in the story challenges you or is confusing?*
    - *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?*

Helpful Hints:

1. Internalize, don't memorize! 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 a learning method to help you learn the story, but don't focus on mastering the method. The learning method is simply a means of mastering the story. (see learning methods below)
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. Knowing how God has used this story in your life will help you to tell the story more authentically.

LEARNING METHODS

Here are several learning methods you can use when learning a story by yourself or in a story fellowship group. You are not limited to these, but they are tried and tested methods.

1. Drama: Act it out, being sure to represent all the characters and places.

2. Hand Motions: This is not the same as sign language, in which every word or phrase is represented. Instead, each hand motion represents a thought or an idea that will prompt you to remember a portion of the story.

3. Objects: Use everyday items to represent the people and places in the story. As you retell the story, move the objects to represent the actions of the people in the places of the story.

4. Storyboarding: Divide a piece of paper into a grid like a tic-tac-toe board. In the first square, draw a picture of the first scene of the story. Continue drawing pictures until you've represented the entire story pictorially. Don't use words, because you want to focus on the action of the story, not on the words. Tell your story using the storyboard and then tell your story without it.

5. Flashcards: Create pictures ahead of time (clip art pictures work well). As you tell the story, show the pictures. Scramble the pictures and then put the pictures in order as you retell the story. Once in order, retell it again.