

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Evangelism in a Skeptical World

Week 9

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~Week 7 Ch5 Contextualization for Evangelism~~
 - ~~How to Interpret Culture, Thoughts, Themes, Story~~
- ~~Week 8 Ch6 Gospel Cultural Hermeneutics~~
 - ~~Enter, Challenge, Fulfill~~
- **Week 9 Ch7 Storytelling the Gospel**
 - **Styles of Learning, Storytelling**



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- **Week 10** Ch8 How to Give Evangelistic Topical Talks
 - What is a Topical Talk and how to give one
- **Week 11** Ch9 How to Give Evangelistic Expository Talks
 - What is an Expository Talks and how to give one
- **Week 12** Ch10 Religious Epistemology, Apologetics
 - Moving People from Hostile to Loyal



Storytelling the Gospel

Styles of Learning, Story-telling

Chapter 7

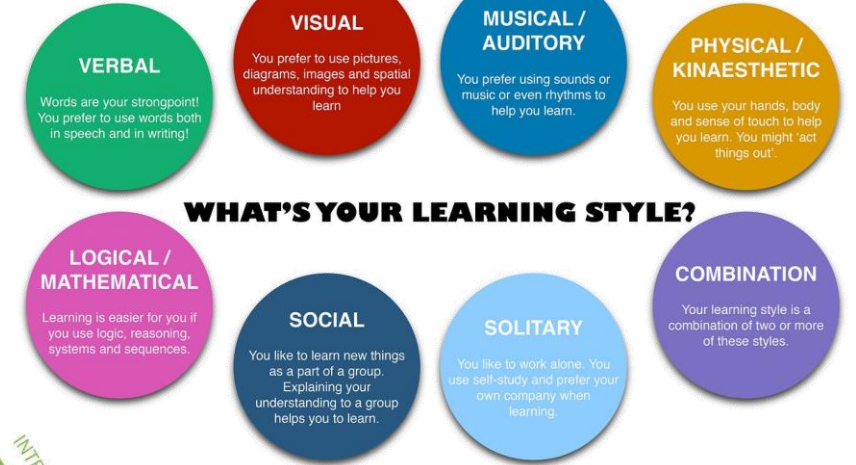


How Do You Learn?

- There are many styles of learning



Learning Styles



- But for this lesson Sam Chan focuses on two



Abstract

- Abstract Learning: Idea based
 - Begin with theoretical concepts which are then applied
 - Prefer reading
 - Learn from points
 - Watch a movie, they want it explained
 - Tell them stories, they get impatient and want you to get to the point



Concrete-Relational

- Concrete-Relational Learning: Story based
 - Begin with stories of how things work
 - Prefer listening or watching
 - Prefer the movie over the book
 - Learn from stories
 - If you don't tell them stories, they complain that you are dull, dry, boring



Is One Way Better?

- One way is not better than the other
 - They are just different
- The Bible gives us both ways
 - Abstract
 - Will prefer the epistles, Paul's letters
 - Concrete-relational
 - Will prefer the stories from the Old and New Testament



Most of the World

- Most of the world are story-based learners
 - 4/5 of the people in the western world prefer concrete-relational
 - 9/10 of non-western people prefer concrete-relational
- But we, in the church, teach in an abstract, fact-based style
- This means a large majority of the world stops listening when we share the facts of the gospel



Storytelling the Gospel

How Do Stories Work

Chapter 7



How Stories Teach

- **One**, they communicate concepts without the fancy words
 - Take the story of Icarus
 - What does it teach?
 - Caution against
 - Pride, Arrogance, ...



Worldview of the Narrator

- **Two**, they make the listener see through the worldview of the narrator
 - Take Icarus again
 - Parents are authority figures
 - That should be respected
 - Disobeying authority figures has consequences
 - Pride is a moral failing
- We may disagree with the worldview, but for a moment...



Suspend Disbelief

- Stories help suspend disbelief
 - Icarus
 - Can you really strap some wings to your arms and fly?
 - And as you rise into the air it will get colder not hotter
 - He would die of lack of oxygen well before the heat of the sun melts the wax
 - But we must stay in the world of the story
 - No time travel for Icarus, that stretches us too far



Suspend Disbelief, For The Bible

- This is one reasons stories can help us share the gospel
 - People will put their disbelief meter on pause
 - To hear a good story
 - THE GOOD STORY



Last Example



Or...

- “Try out online shopping because it’s cheap, reliable, and convenient.”



Storytelling the Gospel

How To Tell The Gospel With Storytelling

Chapter 7



The Following

- The following is Sam Chan's method for
 - Telling the Gospel with storytelling
- Dr. Chan took parts of this method from multiple sources
 - Wycliffe Bible Translators
 - Christine Dillion, *Telling the Gospel through Story: Evangelism That Keeps Hearers Wanting More*
- This is not the only way just a way



Bible Stories to Start With

Genesis 1 (Creation)	Matthew 20:1–6 (Parable of the vineyard workers)	Luke 12:13–21 (Parable of the rich fool)
Genesis 2 (Man & Woman)	Matthew 22:1–14 (Parable of the Wedding Banquet)	Luke 14:15–24 (Parable of the banquet)
Genesis 3 (The fall/Sin)	Mark 2:1–17 (Son of man forgives and heals)	Luke 15:1–31 (Parable of the lost sheep)
Genesis 4 (Cain & Able)	Mark 15:1–39 (Jesus faces Pilate)	Luke 18:9–34 (Parable of the pharisee and tax collector)
Genesis 6–9 (Noah)	Luke 5:12–32 (The first disciples)	John 11:1–43 (Lazarus dies)
Genesis 11:1–9 (Tower of Babylon)	Luke 7:36–50 (Much forgiveness, much love)	John 20 (Empty tomb)
Genesis 12 (Abram)	Luke 8:4–56 (Parable of the sower)	Acts 16:12–34 (Paul & Silas in jail)

Which One?

- Which story should I start with?
 - It all depends
 - Are you going to be able to tell more than one story?
 - Then start in Genesis
 - Are you only getting to tell one story?
 - Start with one about Jesus
 - Again, the goal is to share the gospel, the good news
 - What will speak the most to the person



OK, I Picked One

- You have chosen a story what's next
 - Read it
 - Read it again, carefully
 - Read it in another version
 - Next retell it using your own words
 - Maybe draw out a “storyboard”, comic strip like
 - Visualize the story
 - Then retell the story without the pictures or words

The Aim is SAM

- The aim is SAM
 - Simple, Accurate, Memorable
 - **Simple:** Only use words the listener will understand
 - Synagogue to places of worship
 - If there are a lot of characters focus on the main ones



The Aim is SAM

- The aim is SAM
 - **Accurate:** Do not embellish the story
 - You might leave small things out, names, places
 - But don't exaggerate things for entertainment
 - **Memorable:** Don't be monotone
 - Use facial expressions
 - Voices, gestures, movement
 - Express the drama



Find a Friend

- Retell the story to a friend
 - With the original story, from the Bible, in front of them
 - They can give you feedback as to the
 - Accuracy
 - You were boring
 - You didn't look me in the eye
 - Etc...



Lastly

- Tell someone who needs to hear about the gospel!
 - But how?
 - My names Brad. I have a story. Do you want to hear it?
 - Maybe but...
 - Seems a little weird
 - Or “Here’s a story from the Bible that helps explain what I believe.”



Lead the Discussion

- I've told the story, now what do I do?
 - Hopefully, they have some questions
 - But if not ask what they think
 - Ask broad questions
 - Not questions that have a specific "right" answer
 - Why do you think rich fool left?
 - Why do you think Cain was so mad?
 - Why does the shepherd care about one sheep?

What About Groups

- The story method is also great for groups of people
 - Maybe just maybe you get asked to share with a group
 - Or teach a work Bible study for a few weeks
 - This might seem utterly impossible, but
 - The whole point is we should be prepared
 - To share the gospel at any time
 - To anyone
 - This includes a group



Groups Method

- Tell the story three times
 - First just listen and imagine
 - Second try to remember it
 - Third time you are going to help tell it
 - Or ask people to break into groups and retell it
- Then ask some questions



Lead the Discussion

1. What impressed you about the story?
 2. What questions do you want answered from the story?
 3. What does the story teach us about people?
 4. What does the story teach us about Jesus (or God)?
 5. What is God teaching you from this story?
- Notice there is no specific answer to these questions
 - And all these questions lead deeper into Gods Word

Lead the Discussion

- If someone has a question in the group
 - Don't answer it
 - Let the group answer it, see where it leads
 - This has the benefit of removing you as the
 - “All knowing expert”
 - This means the people must think on their own
 - Not wait to be spoon fed the answers



Break Into Groups

- Another thing to help foster discussion and thinking
 - Break into small groups
 - Many people and cultures are nervous to speak out
 - Especially to the teacher, the “expert”
 - But in a small group of equals
 - My thoughts are equal to theirs



Outside the Box

- What if you had a dinner once a month
 - You invite your neighbors over
 - Invite some church friends over
 - And the theme was, you told a story, a short story
 - Then you discussed the story
 - Brad no one would come to the that!
 - What about book clubs, people love those



Why Does It Work

- Why does the story and question model work
 - When you hear a story, you will see it one way
 - When someone else hears the story, they see it another
 - This is a good thing
 - The questions asked will shine a light into the other person's culture
 - What their existential cry is
 - We can now address their specific need for God

Complex Theological Concepts

- How would you tell someone about the theological idea of **justification not by works** but by the means of **faith** based on the **atoning, substitutionary death** of Jesus Christ?
 - Consider telling the following stories
- Luke 18
 - The widow who looks for justice (v. 3)
 - The Son of Man who looks for faith (v. 8)
 - The Pharisee who trusted in his righteousness (v. 9–12)

Complex Theological Concepts

- The tax collector who asks for God's mercy (v. 13)
- The children who come to Jesus (v. 15–17)
- The rich ruler who cannot enter the kingdom of God (v. 18–25)
- Salvation being impossible without God (v. 26–27)
- Jesus' predicting his death (v. 31–33)
- Finally a beggar who calls out for mercy and has his eyes opened (v. 35–43).



Complex Theological Concepts

- These stories communicate the ideas of
 - Justification not by works but faith
 - Atoning, substitutionary death
- Never using the fancy words, just the ideas



Conclusion

- To tell the gospel in story format will take work on your part
 - You will need to read and study these stories
 - You will need to understand them
 - You will need to work memorizing them and telling them
 - You will need to learn more than one
- Is the gospel important enough to share
 - That you will work at it?



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