

## What Makes a Good Story?

Most of us tell stories in our daily lives. Stories make it easier to remember something that is important.

### A Good Story:

- is not too long but not too short.
- is simple and is easy to remember, especially through “painting a mental picture” that provides an image that is memorable.
- flows in an orderly manner so it is easy to follow.
- has an interesting and energizing beginning, middle and end.
- is told from the heart.

## Why is good storytelling so effective in conveying the “good news” about what God has done in your life?

### Stories:

- are real, first-hand experiences that contain such important elements as humor, pain, joy, heroism, sacrificial love, turning away from wrong doing etc.
- engage the imagination and draws the listener towards ACTIVE participation, rather than just listening.
- disarms people in a non-confrontational way because someone can’t really argue with a person’s experience, but they can learn from it. “A person with a true personal story about God is never at the mercy of a person with an argument.”
- Stories can touch everyone wherever they are in their spiritual development.
- provide listeners with your takeaway.  
Consider what idea(s) you want your reader to keep thinking about long after. Example: No matter how dark the circumstances, there is always hope because God is faithful. Don’t ever give up. If God could do this for me, there is nothing He cannot do. The message of our story with God is always “good news.”
- God’s revelation to us is a story of His unending love for His creation, referred to as the Story of Salvation.
- Christ Himself used storytelling a lot, as a teaching method by way of the PARABLES.
- Ultimately, the Faith that we received, passed generation after generation, is in great part because of storytelling.