

We want to evangelize & disciple people using Truth that sticks. Bible stories are God’s velcro.

Without stories, Truth can slide off like pancakes from Teflon.

Truth That Sticks: How to Communicate Velcro Truth in a Teflon World—Avery Willis

We polish our story presentation so people will can focus on Truths in them & not be distracted.

Presentation Grading Scale

- 1 = Needs much more study & practice
- 2 = Made a mistake, study further, needs polish
- 3 = Average storytelling skills
- 4 = Above average skills with unique flair
- 5 = Polished, no improvement needed!

Areas to Assess

Pure & Suitable Text - no opinion/interpretation

Presentation – hold Bible, voice, visual aids, body lang.

Questions - structured to discover truths

I. Pure & Suitable Text

- A. Storytelling without opinion or interpretation
Opinions unwittingly adulterate the purity of the text & may develop man-made traditions.
- B. *Eliminate* extraneous verses--give consideration to age, exposure to scriptures, barriers to the Gospel, time constraints, attention span, & your spiritual objectives. (Ex. Joseph)
- C. *Include* verses necessary for storyline, to impart the spiritual truths & lesson objectives, to develop the setting, or to add a splash of color & infuse interest in the story.
- D. **Always include dialogue** among God & characters. “He said/she said” brings the story to life.
- E. **Emphasize textual power statements to build the story’s theme** & significance.
Optimal impact: guard story’s climax from distractions & secondary themes or info.

II. PRESENTATION STYLE AND METHOD

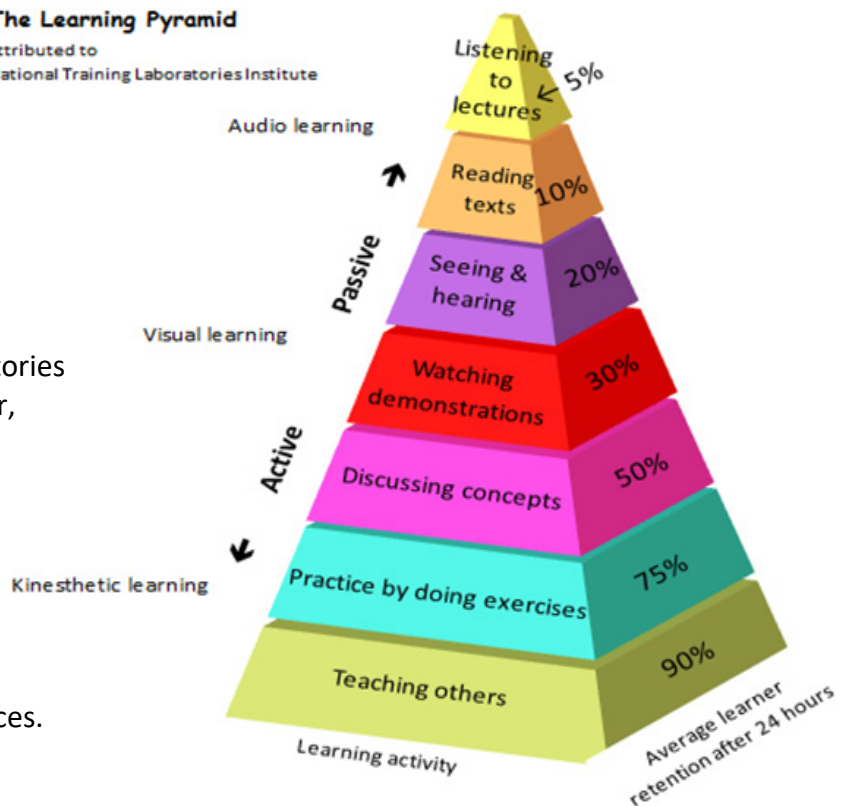
A. Learning Retention goals guide methods

- 7% impact comes from words we use
- 38% tone of voice
- 55% nonverbal communication

B. Build Mental Images

- “The Bible is full of images. In order to tell stories or translate it from one language to another, we need to study about the images.”
- Think of Jesus teaching:
“Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me.”
What image do you have? What inspired your image? Yoke means “Set of teachings” in Hebrew. Ox yoke is wrong image.
- Images powerfully aid us in learning, Processing, & remembering info & experiences.

The Learning Pyramid
attributed to
National Training Laboratories Institute



C. "SenseSational Presentations" (1995), p. 6. Eric Miller, 12 NEC Technologies:

- A face-to-face storyteller is always **listening**.
 - **Responding** to listeners' input, a face-to-face storyteller modifies a performance in countless ways (duration, intensity, intimacy, etc.).
 - Storytelling is a reciprocal, shared event.
 - **Visual aid** is a third party to a 2-way relationship between him/herself & the audience. Thus, the storyteller is responsible for the audience's relationship with the visual: she must introduce & explain it; serve as the audience's guide to it & within it; be the mediator & moderator between the two parties.
- ★ Keep the Biblical message the star of the Bible study, not the visual aids!

D. Facial Expressions...

- Interpret the mood of the story
- Will reflect storyteller's emotion or thought in response to an aspect of the story
- Can reflect emotion or thought of character in the story
- **Storyteller need not act out all** of the appropriate emotional responses to the material. In fact, it can be patronizing and deadening to define the proper response to a story situation.
- Often, it is best to let audience members discover & embody story emotions on their own.
- Notice responses of your listeners & build on them, imitate or in some way comment upon listeners' facial expressions.

E. Body Movements & Intonation

- Intonation & inflection should be natural, sm. exaggeration for emphasis, have meaningful pauses
- Facial expressions, should not draw attention to themselves
- If you're insecure about the power of your story, you'll constantly give the audience cues about how a character feels, or about how the audience should feel.
- Don't over-exaggerate. "Gestures ...should be natural to the teller & to the action of the story."
- Consider size & age of audience. Large audience, broader movement & slower speech.
- Young audiences, more vigorous gestures.
- Older, conservative groups may feel irritated when physical actions are too demonstrative. Sense when there are gaps that need to be filled.
- Visual or auditory jolt can regain attention or make a point that was not coming across verbally.
- Conversely, know when not to distract attention away from the verbal with visuals.

F. What Should We Do When the Audience...

Yawns? Starts slipping out? Snacks? Whispers? Talks out loud? Looks worried? Looks at watch?
Gives excited reaction to a portion of the story? Looks solemn?

G. Visual Aids – Remain Secondary to the Storyteller

Story Board Picture Set Picture Book Power Pt. Props

H. Creative Word-Pictures

- Tap into emotions so audience will feel as if they're in the story
- Maintain audience's attention
- Sustains recall; stories become reproducible
- Chronology helps make better sense of the storylines

III. PRACTICE BIBLE STORIES All practice same story from this list: *(chosen because they're brief)*

- 1) Mt 8:23-27 Jesus Calms the Storm
- 2) Lk 18:9-14 Publican & Sinner
- 3) Ex 1:15-22 Midwives in Egypt
- 4) Mt 8: 5-10,13 Centurion's Son