



The Power of Story

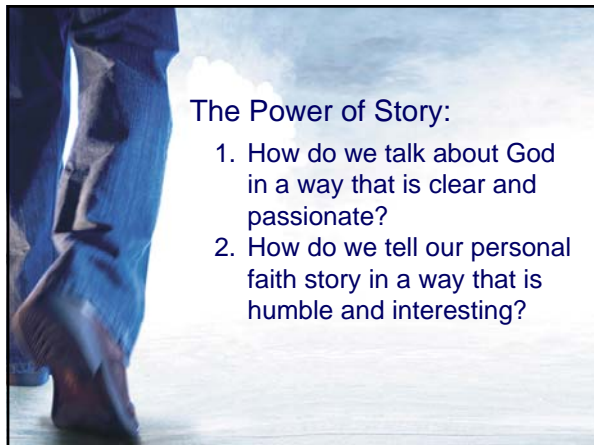
Philippians 3:4-14



Introduction:

Living in 3D

- Developing friendships
- Discovering stories
- Discerning next steps



The Power of Story:

1. How do we talk about God in a way that is clear and passionate?
2. How do we tell our personal faith story in a way that is humble and interesting?

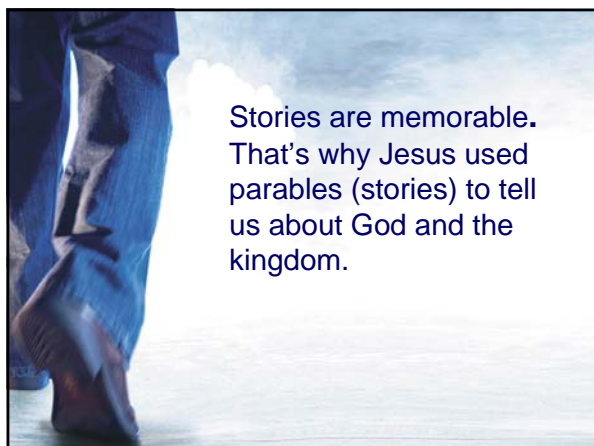


I. Stories are powerful.

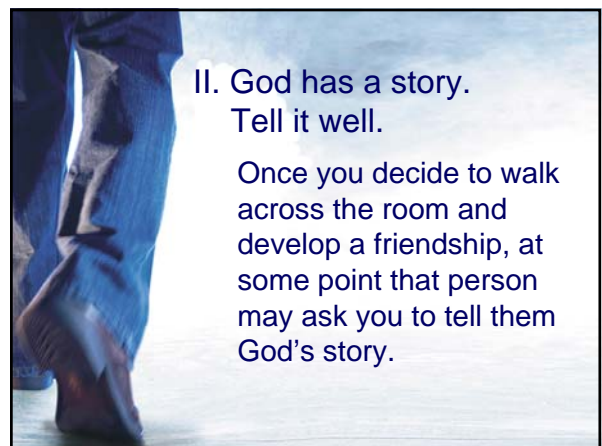
They can make us laugh or cry.

They can touch the heart and get past our defenses.

They can illustrate spiritual truth better than just a statement.

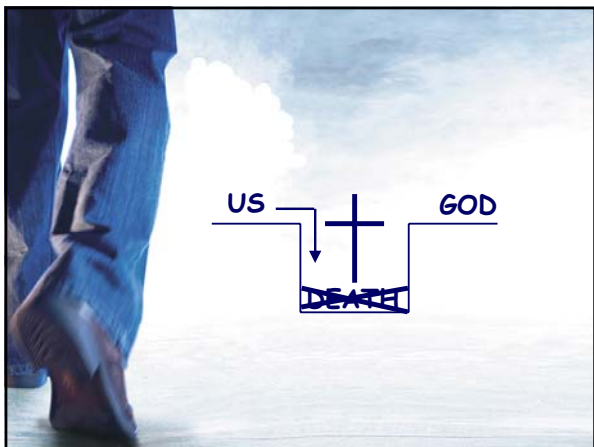
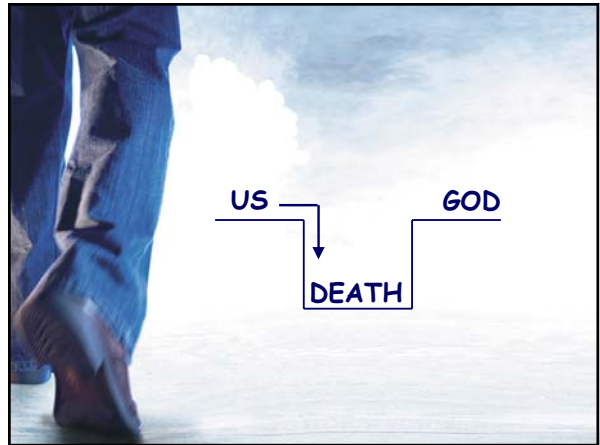
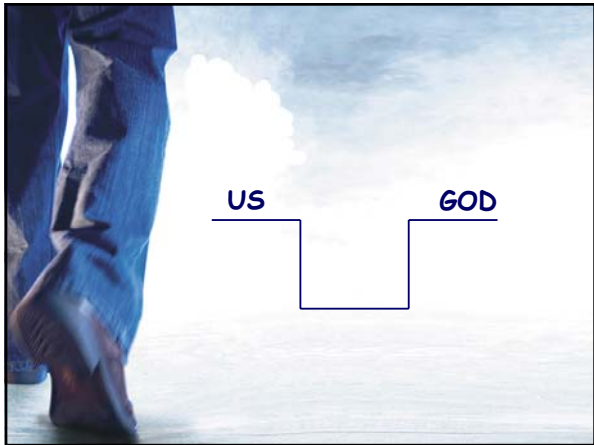
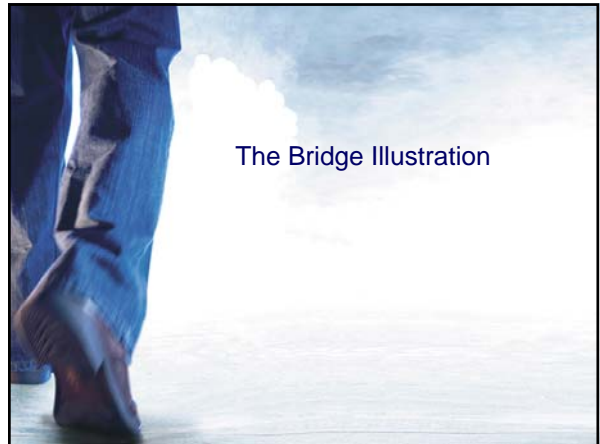


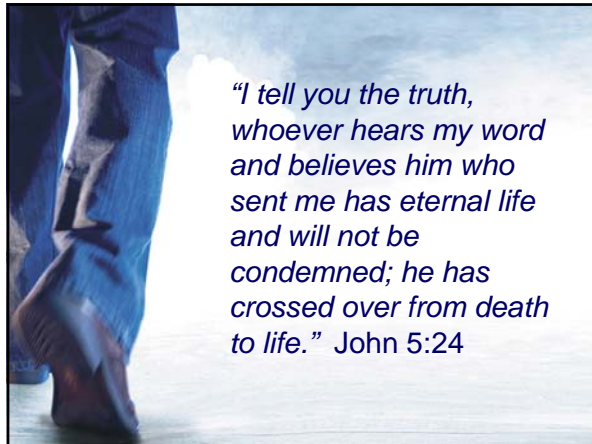
Stories are memorable. That's why Jesus used parables (stories) to tell us about God and the kingdom.



II. God has a story. Tell it well.

Once you decide to walk across the room and develop a friendship, at some point that person may ask you to tell them God's story.

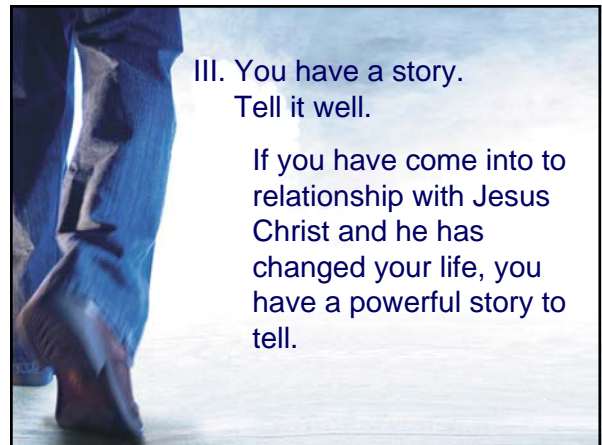




"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

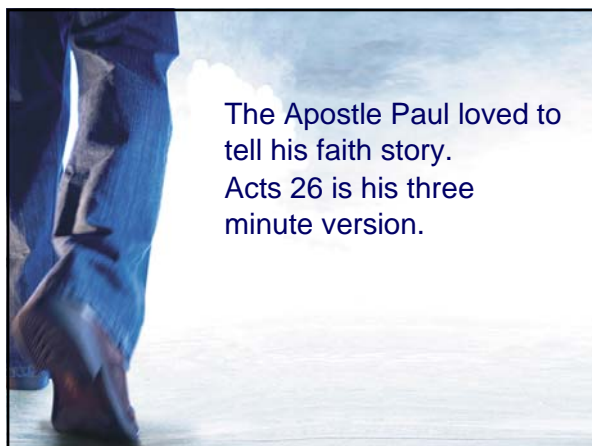


Our part is to tell God's story in the clearest and best way we can and leave the results to God.

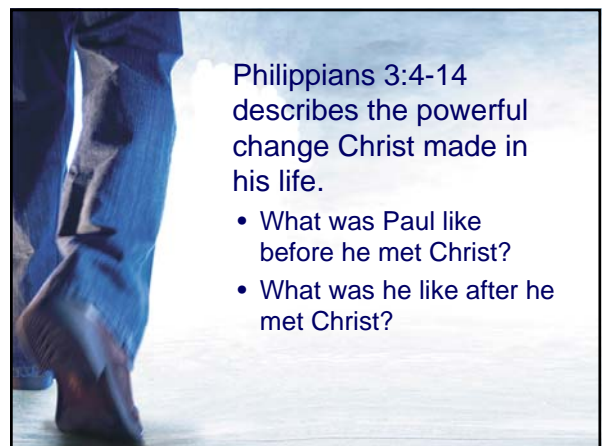


III. You have a story.
Tell it well.

If you have come into to relationship with Jesus Christ and he has changed your life, you have a powerful story to tell.



The Apostle Paul loved to tell his faith story. Acts 26 is his three minute version.



Philippians 3:4-14 describes the powerful change Christ made in his life.

- What was Paul like before he met Christ?
- What was he like after he met Christ?

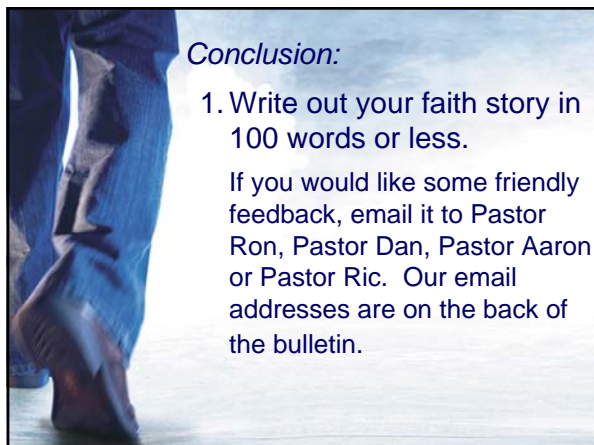


What's your story?
Before and after.

- I was striving...but now I'm at peace.
- I was self-destructive...but now I'm healthy.
- I was guilty, but now liberated.
- Fearful, but now confident.
- Despairing, but now hopeful.



Keep your story simple, humble and succinct.



Conclusion:

1. Write out your faith story in 100 words or less.

If you would like some friendly feedback, email it to Pastor Ron, Pastor Dan, Pastor Aaron or Pastor Ric. Our email addresses are on the back of the bulletin.



2. Pray for an opportunity to share your story.
3. Comedysportz – a great walk across the room opportunity.



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