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Telling The Gospel Through Story: Evangelism That Keeps Hearers Wanting More



"A most welcome introduction."
—LON ALLISON, Billy Graham Center

TELLING THE GOSPEL THROUGH STORY

Evangelism That Keeps Hearers Wanting More

Christine Dillon



Synopsis

The 2013 Outreach Magazine Resource of the Year in Evangelism! Everybody loves a good story. In an age when prepackaged gospel formulations leave people cold, well-told Bible stories can be used powerfully by God to touch people's hearts and draw them to himself. After ministry in both Western and non-Western contexts, church planter Christine Dillon has discovered that Bible storying is far more effective than most other forms of apologetics or evangelistic presentations. In fact, non-Christians actually enjoyed storying and kept coming back for more. Storying provides solid biblical foundations so listeners can understand, apply and respond to the gospel, and then go on to fruitful maturity in God's service. This book includes practical guidance on how to shape a good story, how to do evangelism through storying and how to lead Bible discussions. With particular insights for trainers and those working in crosscultural contexts, this guide provides you with concrete steps for sharing the Story that everyone needs to hear.

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Customer Reviews

Storying is a natural, appealing way to communicate the gospel, and once you get started people actually want to hear more, according to Christine Dillon in this book. The book provides a convincing argument for the use of story-telling as a key part of effective communication, both in cross-cultural and in same-cultural situations. After explaining the benefits and biblical basis of storying, the author goes on to explain how to select suitable stories from the Bible and how to prepare stories from the biblical text. Because storying creates a high degree of engagement between the listeners and the narrative, it serves well as a basis for interactive learning, and if used with appropriate questions can lead to vigorous and perceptive discussion of the key issues. Many forms of evangelism rely on the evangelist having a highly developed skill set, and this often causes ordinary Christians to despair of their ability ever to become effective evangelists. Storying, on the other hand, is an activity which everyone engages in to some extent, and it is a skill which can easily be worked on even by people who have no literacy skills. This makes it a very attainable and reproducible evangelistic technique. The book naturally made me curious as to what a story as envisaged by the author might sound like. The book itself does not contain example stories because, as the author asserts, storying is an oral communication form, not a written one. Videos of example stories can be accessed through the author's website [StoryingTheScriptures](http://StoryingTheScriptures.com), and these should give the viewer confidence that a smooth and polished presentation is completely unnecessary for engaging storytelling. In my opinion this book is one of the most effective resources on evangelism that I have ever encountered, and I highly recommend it.

Christine Dillon has provided an excellent introduction into the art of storying. The book systematically walks through many of the key questions one should consider as they begin the journey of storying the Bible. As a former cross-cultural worker in Central and South America, this resource answers many of the questions that I faced. While on the field I received a significant amount of training on storying, and have read several other books on the topic. This book provides the best summation of those I have seen. The book starts by providing the reader with the reasoning behind the use of storying. There is nothing really new here for those familiar with storying, but it is definitely something that those new to storying may find interesting. Dillon quickly addresses the main questions that many readers will need to consider while choosing and preparing stories. Understanding the worldview of those whom one intends to share the stories with is a critical part of the preparation process. Other resources may be needed to actually help one work through that discovery process, but Dillon does a good job of showing the reader how that impacts what stories are chosen. According to the author, one should then select stories that challenge those

beliefs and reveal God's glory. After discussing how to craft stories and sets of stories, Dillon addresses one of the most difficult parts of storying. How to facilitate discussion and actually use the stories effectively in shaping a change in worldview is every much an art as crafting the stories themselves. I thought Dillon did a good job addressing the topic, and provides the reader some excellent tools to help in that area. The final two parts of the book address training others to become storytellers, and adapting stories for specific context. Storying can be used evangelistically and for discipleship, and the book provides several things to consider in each context. As previously mentioned, I definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in understanding the basic concepts of storying. There are many examples and illustrations that are very useful, especially for those in cross-cultural ministry.

I found this book to be very helpful in showing the great value of Bible Storying and then helping the reader actually begin to put it into practice. Christine Dillon has taken this amazing strategy and made it very accessible to those who would like to begin on this journey of biblical storying. I have used it in teaching and recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about telling the Gospel through story.

I found this book to be both very useful and motivating! It gives great examples from Dillon's experiences of using storytelling and practical steps of how to prepare stories. She makes the reader feel empowered to tell stories in a way that will be perfect for the audience. I highly recommend this book!

Good book, but left a bit to be desired. I didn't feel I really got what I read it for.

Changed the way I view storytelling. I learned how to effectively use it for a mature audience and especially to those of different ethnic backgrounds. A great tool to put in your evangelism toolbox.

This is a great tool for people wanting to story. It's an easy read (as it should be) with a helpful list of suggested Bible portions to story. I intend to use in my storying pursuits for years to come.

Well written with lots of good examples from her experience of how stories have been used and have impacted lives.

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