

A Guide for Storytellers

Introduction

We are thrilled you have considered teaching The God Story. We are passionate about a generation encountering the unfailing love of God through the unfolding nature of scripture. One of the main ways we believe this will happen is through anointed Storytellers retelling the Biblical story in a clear and compelling way.

Before The God Story became a book it was preached. We both taught the content which became The God Story book in our local churches first. In doing so we witnessed many people journey 'from familiar to fascination' and it therefore became our holy ambition to write The God Story book so many more could be immersed in the extraordinary biblical story.

But first and foremost we are local church pastors who love to preach and teach the scriptures to those the Lord has entrusted into our care. We recognise the incredible honour and privilege we have to do this and so we humbly and joyfully submit this Sermon Series to you - our fellow God Story Storytellers. We recognise we are only ever apprentices to the Master Storyteller but we also want to be obedient to His instructions to proclaim this 'good news' story.

We are praying The God Story Sermon Series will help you retell the greatest story ever told, the story every longing soul is waiting to hear. Like the two disciples walking towards Emmaus almost 2000 years ago, who found themselves listening to the Master Storyteller, we believe hearts will burn when the Spirit-inspired retellings of narrative of scripture takes place. So we pray you will preach it in the power of the Spirit, the gentleness of the Father and the way of Jesus.

The Sermon Series Outline

The God Story Sermon Series is designed to complement the structure of The God Story book. As you will see, each session title corresponds with the chapter title of the same name in the book. While there are 12 talk outlines you can teach each session over a two-week period resulting in a 24 week series. With so much content to cover and so many opportunities to go deeper this would give you more time to immerse your community in the width and depth of the biblical story without feeling rushed. That being said, please feel free to edit and adapt as is most appropriate in your context.

As you will see each sermon outline consists of a similar structure including the following sections.

In Preparation

- **Key Aims:** a brief headline of the main themes we encourage you to explore in this particular talk
- **The God Story Teaching Method:** a reminder of the dual teaching method required to teach The God Story effectively: to unfold the eternal purposes of God and release people into personal encounter (see section below)
- **Key Bible Passages:** a short list of the relevant Bible passages you may want to use to ground or frame this particular talk.
- **Teaching notes:** a short description of how you can use the talk outlines and the outlines include.
- **Application opportunity:** a reminder when teaching to discern moments of application and reflection which could encourage deeper personal encounter and response.

The Sermon

Introduction

each sermon outline (except the first one) includes a brief recap of the previous session(s) and an overview of the session about to be taught. Please feel free to use this in whatever way is most appropriate for you as the introduction to your talk.

Talk Outline

this is the main section of each sermon guide. Generally speaking each talk is structured with sub-headings which match the structure of the corresponding chapter of The God Story book. A mixture of key points, quotes and scriptures are included under each sub-heading. We encourage you to prayerfully discern how to adapt this to suit your teaching style but we hope what we have included provides you with a basic structure for the main content for your talk.

Reflection questions

this is an opportunity for further reflection and application as you conclude your talk.

Three sacred themes

a signpost to the three sacred themes which summarise each chapter of The God Story book and knit the overall plot-line together.

How to teach The God Story

The God Story Storyteller understands that to teach the The God Story effectively a dual teaching method is required. This is the art of teaching in a way that both unfolds the eternal purposes of God through history and also releases them into personal encounter. Practically this will mean prayerfully considering in each talk outline what parts you want to 'go deeper' in and what parts you want to mention at a headline level. We trust the Spirit will inspire and guide you to find the right cadence as you aim to give a passionate sweep of the unfolding narrative while also narrowing the focus in certain places to emphasise personal application and encounter.

We believe the talk outlines will give you more than enough content to shape your talk but we would encourage you to bring your own imagination and application to the crafting of this. We recognise that we all teach and preach in different ways and we are all graced by the Spirit in unique and diverse ways so please use the content in a way that allows you to flow best.

Questions

How long should I spend on each talk?

We recommend spending no longer than 40 minutes on any talk. There is obviously a lot to pack in (the main reason why we encourage the 24-week series) but it is also important to recognise that there is only so much people can retain. Again, please free to edit and adapt the length of the sermon guides, particularly if talks are usually significantly shorter in your context.

Who should preach The God Story?

We recommend Bible teachers who are at least semi-experienced to preach The God Story as it requires a considerable grasp of the metanarrative of scripture as well as a proven Spirit-inspired ability to take people into moments of revelation.

We would encourage those who teach to read The God Story Book so they become immersed in the tone and spirit of this particular retelling of the Biblical narrative.

A number of different preachers could be used to teach different chapters of The God Story Sermon Series however we would recommend two or three preachers maximum throughout the series in order to maintain consistency and cohesion between the chapters.

Do you recommend reading The God Story Book as you move through the series?

Yes absolutely!! We believe teaching through The God Story will be a worthwhile experience for your church or community whether you read the The God Story book alongside it or not but we believe the teaching experience will be so much more enriched by encouraging people to read the book alongside.

How does The God Story Small Group Guide supplement The God Story Sermon Series?

The God Story Small Group Guide is designed to supplement The God Story book and The God Story Sermon Series. The reflective questions which are placed at the end of each chapter of the book and at the end of each sermon guide are also offered as discussion questions in The God Story Small Group guide.