**Creative Storytelling Methods**

Illustration:

Phil begins with a story from his childhood about a tree falling on him. He doesn’t complete the story. He ends at cliff hanger moment when he “realizes” that the class needs to start. When students protest it allows an intro to the power of a good story.

**Intro:**

1. When we tell stories we share the truth of the Bible in a way that is interesting and clear.
2. Jesus is our example and Jesus told stories.
3. Mark 4:2, Jesus taught them many things by parables
   1. List some examples of parables Jesus told
   2. Jesus used these stories to explain the truths of the Bible.
4. Stories are powerful because
   1. They capture your attention
   2. They keep your attention
   3. We use them all the time. We communicate daily with stories. They are a familiar form of communication.

Illustration Part 2:

Complete the story of the tree falling in Congo.

**Preparing a Story:**

1. Pray and ask God to help you. The Holy Spirit speaking through you can make your stories powerful.
   1. Ask God to give you the story that illustrates your point.
   2. Ask God to give you a creative method to tell the story.
2. Find your story:
   1. In the Bible
   2. In storybooks
   3. From your parents/ others
   4. Radio/ tv/ media
   5. School
   6. History/ tradition/ culture
   7. Make up your own stories
3. Prepare your story
   1. Illustration: Story about Auntie Coco preparing her story, using the “story bag” method of telling the story.
      1. First she finds a story
         1. Bring Bible out of bag.
      2. Then she does research to find the correct details of the story.
         1. Bring concordance or “scholarly” looking book out of bag.
      3. Then she writes notes of the important points of the story
         1. Show “notes” in outline form.
      4. She chooses a point of view: who is telling the story?
      5. Bring out several “hats” to represent different points of view.
         1. For example, will she tell the story of David and Goliath from David’s point of view? From Goliaths? From the Israelite Army’s? From the Philistine Army’s?
      6. She chooses a storytelling method.
         1. Bring out several kinds of serving dishes, representing how you will choose to present the story.
      7. She gathers any extra supplies she will need and does any extra preparation she may need to do for the storytelling method.
         1. Show the bag itself, representing gathering all your materials.
4. Plan and practice your presentation of the story
   1. Start preparation on Monday. Begin practicing.
   2. Tell your story to yourself or to a friend. It will force you to practice it out loud.
      1. Illustration: Phil talking to himself.
   3. Tell your story in front of a mirror.
   4. Tell your story in character and in voice
   5. Tell your story with your props/ with your tools
      1. Costumes
      2. Drawings
   6. Tell your story in place. Practice it in your classroom or imagine yourself in the space where you will tell the story.

**Presenting your Story:** Principals for a good presentation

1. Maintain eye-contact: look at the people you are talking to.
2. Tell the story with enthusiasm. If you enjoy telling the story, the children will enjoy listening to it.
3. Use emotion: imagine yourself in that place. Feel what the characters feel.
4. Use your voice as a tool. You can use accents, level of your voice, etc. Talk like an old man, a child, etc.
5. Be animated: use your whole body, your whole face. Walk like an old man, a child, etc.

**Ten Ways to Tell a Story:**

1. Use drama:
   1. The teacher can dramatize the story, using props or acting it out.
   2. Other adults, other children, etc. can act out the story.
      1. You can practice ahead of time
      2. Or you can just have the others improvise, acting out the story as you tell it.
2. Use drawings:
   1. Use a series of circles on the board to draw characters faces as you tell the story. (example: Jairus’ daughter.)
   2. Have the children come forward and draw on the board as you tell the story. (example: Jesus’ death and resurrection)
3. Use participation:
   1. Use sound effects: each time you say a certain word, the children must make the associated sound. (example: Noah’s Ark, children make animal sounds.)
   2. Use actions: each time you say a certain word, the children must do an associated action. (example: Jesus calms the story, children make gestures for Jesus, disciples, boat, waves, etc.)
4. Use paper:
   1. Cut shapes out of a piece of paper while you tell the story. (example: Zaccheus in the tree.)
   2. Fold paper while you tell the story.
      1. example 1: folded boat, folded bird, folded cup. What stories could you tell using these items?
      2. example 2: Story of Stephen: give each child a piece of paper and show them how to fold a fan. The fan is the bow tie, the hair bow, the moustache, for the different characters in the story. Children can use their own fan to follow along. In the end the paper can be crumpled and everyone can throw their papers to illustrate the stoning of Stephen.
5. Use objects:
   1. Use a story bag/box. As you tell the story, pull items out of the box or bag that are found in the story. (example: Story of the widow at Zeraphath, pull out sticks, jar of flour, jar of oil, loaf of bread, etc.)
   2. Ask the children to bring objects from home. This method requires advance planning as you will have to ask them to bring items for the following Sunday. While telling the story, ask for the child who brought the items to bring it up. (example: The parable of the lost coin. *“The woman looked for her coin. She even swept under the bed. Who brought a broom? Please bring up the broom.”*
      1. Note: if you use this method, you will want to have your own set of props set aside in case the children forget to bring their own.