

Week 4 Storytelling Small Group

Processing Questions about Leslie (Sunday Speaker):

1. Leslie is a great speaker. What makes him captivating?
2. What drew you into Leslie's story?
 - a. How can you apply these principles to your own storytelling?
3. What other elements of a great story did you see present in Leslie's sermon?
 - a. How did these elements impact Leslie's sermon?
4. Where did you see God in Leslie's sermon today?

Processing Questions about Beth Nyland (Wednesday Speaker):

5. What's one thing you learned from Beth?
 - a. How might applying this principle enhance your own storytelling?
6. Beth talked about three elements of great stories:
 - a. The importance of details (including what you choose to leave out)
 - b. The importance of imagery
 - c. The importance of conflict.
 - i. How might applying these principles enhance your own storytelling?
 - ii. How can you apply these principles to your own storytelling?
 - iii. Which one of these elements would make the greatest difference in the telling of your faith story? Why?
7. Where did you see God in Beth's workshop?

General Questions about the Week 4 Theme: Elements of a Great Story

8. Some people argue that the Bible is the greatest story ever written. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
9. Think about the three elements of a great story that Beth discussed:
 - a. The importance of details (including what you choose to leave out)
 - b. The importance of imagery
 - c. The importance of conflict.
 - i. What is your favorite story in Scripture? Why?
 - ii. How do you see each of these principles in your favorite Scripture story?
 - iii. Think about the importance of details. What details are present in your favorite Scripture story? What details were left out?
 1. How do the details that were left out shape the story?
 2. If these details were included in your favorite Scripture story, how, if at all, would the meaning of the story change?

Storytelling Practice:

- 10.** Think about your past week. On your index card, write about a moment when God felt particularly present or absent to you.

After giving people time to reflect & write down their story, invite each person to share it with the group. Then process using the following questions:

- a. As you described when God felt particularly present or absent, what details did you choose to leave out? Why?
 - i. How would the inclusion of those details have changed your story?
- b. What, if any, imagery did you use to describe when God felt present or absent?
- c. If you were to retell your story, what imagery could you focus on? How would doing so impact your story?
- d. What, if any, conflict or tension did you include in your story of God's presence or absence? How did its inclusion impact your story?

General Processing Questions:

- 11.** What, if anything, has surprised you about our storytelling series thus far?
- 12.** What have you learned from our storytelling series thus far?
- 13.** In the past few weeks, how have you
 - a. Seen the power of short stories in your life?
 - b. Experienced God's presence in your life?
- 14.** At this point in our series, how would you answer the question, "What's your story?"
 - a. Specifically, how would you answer this question in regard to your faith?
- 15.** Where have you seen God in our storytelling series so far?