



What Story Can I Tell?

WELS Women's Ministry Conference

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Opening Remarks – What is it about a good story?

Your Favorite story from the Gospels? Choose one and enter it here.

Why *that* story? What makes it your favorite?

What does it *do* to you?

Who needs to hear this story? For what question/s is it the answer?

How would you capture this story in two minutes? Just reflect.

Now start your “Playlist” with four more well-loved stories.

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With each you will plan to articulate: Who needs to hear these stories?
For what questions are these stories the answer?

Consider also two meta-narratives to top your Playlist. Think about how
might you tell them?

The Garden to Garden story of everything.

The Manger to Empty Tomb story of Jesus.

Now consider important questions and situations people may bring to you that none of the stories above speak to as well as you would like them to.

The problem of pain?

The question of hell?

Others?

About each one you will ask, not “What do I have to say about that?” but “*What Story Can I Tell?*”

This is your challenge to enhance the rest of your life as a witness for Jesus: develop your Playlist of ten or so stories that speak to the most important questions you can expect to meet in this world.

How to talk to people

Curiosity – “Let each one look not to her own interests...”
(Philippians 2:4)

High Regard – “Consider others as better than yourselves...”
(Philippians 2:3)

Mutual Sharing – “We were pleased to share...our very lives...”
(1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Investing – “Carry each other’s burdens...”
(Galatians 6:2)

Heather Holleman – *The Six Conversations*

How to talk to people about Jesus – What I’m learning to do.

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
(Colossians 4:6)

Be transparently Christian.

Ask good questions.

Really see and really hear them.

Tell my story.

The evolution of an idea

Impromptu speaking – *“What story can I tell?”*

Field testing – 18 months at New Life Lutheran Church

Kayla who had never been to church

Kristen, PhD in Marxist Philosophy

What do you really think?

What do you see to commend this idea? What makes you unsure?

What limitations and challenges do you see? What if you gave this every chance?

Which of these came to mind?

There are natural-born story tellers among us.

The Spirit is married to these fresh, untold stories in a biblically illiterate age.

They are all about Jesus as an inexhaustible supply for countless conversations.

An apologetic of the Word.

Are these stories too long as turns in a conversation?

The Power of Story

Walter Fisher's "Narrative Paradigm"

Episodic versus eidetic memory

Social Penetration Theory

Story as "an exchange of friendship"

"The same box in our heads / the same naturalness"

Do you sense the magic?

This mode of witness is unlike with Propositional Truth that inherently asks, "So, do you believe this or don't you!?"

What is there to disagree with? I'm just telling my story.

One way to prepare, A Bible Study Method

Talk about the story.

What strikes you? (Something you've never noticed?)

What are you unsure about? (What questions does it raise?)

Where does it take your thoughts? ("Chase every rabbit")

Who needs to hear this story?

How does it confront us?

What is the Good News in this story?

How would you tell it?

Who wants to try?

A Case Study – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself; ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)

Closing Remarks – No Greater Joy