



➤ **STORIES**

- **Human life is so bound up in stories that we are thoroughly desensitized to their amazing power to lure us in.**

➤ **STORYTELLING IS ABOUT ADDRESSING THE MIND AND THE HEART.**

- Storytelling is about conveying a meaning.
- It is always moralistic and intentional
- **IT IS ALWAYS SAID THAT JESUS WAS A GREAT TEACHER BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE TOLD STORIES.**
- Primarily he was a great Teacher because he knew his audience—how they lived—how they thought.
- He adapted his teaching to his audience and

➤ **PREPARATION**

- Choose a story from your life, someone else's life or the Bible
- Consider your theme. Keep it in your consciousness.
- Put yourself in the story.
- Imagine the surroundings and details surrounding the story.
- Think about how this story can relate to other people.
- Put yourself in the story.
- What do you see? Describe the people in your story.

➤ **THE STORYTELLER MUST STUDY THE THEME**

- Use your imagination to make the story come alive as you prepare. Give your characters personalities—even if you are the character.

➤ **LIVE THE STORY.**

➤ **CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD STORY**

- A single theme, clearly defined.
- A well-developed plot.
- Style: vivid word pictures, pleasing sounds and rhythm.
- Well-crafted characters.
- Faithful to source.
- Dramatic appeal.

➤ **QUALITIES OF A GOOD STORYTELLER**

- Salesmanship
- Sincerity
- Authenticity
- Wholeheartedness.

- Enthusiasm
- Animation
- Finer points include: emphasis, repetition, transition, and pause.

- State the truth /theme of your story out loud.

➤ **FIND A MEMORY HOOK**

- A phrase, concept, or attitude repeated in the story that helps make the story memorable.

➤ **PLAN YOUR FIRST WORDS**

- Craft a great beginning. Be descriptive.

➤ **PLAN YOUR LAST WORDS:**

- Consider the ending.  
Make it punctuate your theme.
- Be more creative. Let the ending highlight your theme without saying, "the point of this story is..."

➤ **RESEARCH**

- Research the facts surrounding your story: your point, your theme, the Bible story exegesis.
- Anything that will provide, color, interest and insight and that will enhance the final story.
- Use sparingly. Cultural customs, historical facts, family history are like seasoning—too much is way too much and spoils the food.

➤ **TIGHTEN UP YOUR STORY**

- Cut everything not crucial.

➤ **BE PICKY WITH DETAILS**

➤ **REPEAT PHRASES**

➤ **BODY MOVEMENTS AND GESTURES**

- Choose them carefully and sparingly. Let them tell the story.

➤ **PACE YOUR DELIVERY**

- Slow down.
- Use effective pauses.

➤ **NERVOUSNESS**

- It is a gift.
- Keeps us on our toes.
- Humbles us.
- Compels us to prepare.
- Keeps the adrenaline flowing. Adrenaline sharpens the mind and senses.
- Give us extra energy.
- Thank God for it. It is his work after all!

**BIBLE STORIES**

- Use these same principles to tell a Bible story.
- Scripture in liturgy is formal, necessary proclamation.
- Scripture shared in story-form and free style in catechetical settings captivates the listener to hear it in a new way.

➤ **WAYS TO TELL STORIES**

- Verbal
- Non-verbal and Visual
- Gestures

➤ **STORIES FROM MY LIFE**

## RECONGRESS 2019

### 7-04: THE ART OF STORYTELLING

by Mary Birmingham

- The day I met my true love.
- The day I was married.
- The day my child was born.
- The day my spouse left me.
- The day I lost a loved one.
- The day my child disappointed me.
- The day I was betrayed.
- The day God helped me with my addictions.
- The day I experienced joy in the midst of suffering.
- The day the doctor said, "It's probably nothing, but we should run some tests."
- The day I was hired.
- The day I was fired.
- The day my car spun out of control on the icy interstate.
- The first time I apologized to my child.
- The most recent time I apologized to my spouse.
- The day I called my brother whom I hadn't spoken to in ten years.
- The day I realized I was in denial.
- The day I accepted the challenges in my life.
- MOVIES
- Les Miserables
- Cry Freedom
- Brother Sun Sister Moon
- The Shack
- Freedom Writers
- Ghandi
- Unbroken
- Narnia: Voyages of the Dawn Treader
- The Blind Side
- Jesus of Nazareth
- Soul Surfer
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Ten Commandments
- Ben Hur
- Lord of the Rings
- The Mission
- Letters to God
- Brother Sun, Sister Moon
- Clare and Francis mini series
- Passion of Christ
- King of Kings
- The Robe Barabbas
- Greatest Story Ever Told
- Amazing Grace
- Shadowlands
- The Nativity Story

#### BOOKS

- Screwtape Letters: CS Lewis
- Return of the King: Lord of the Rings
- The Two Towers: Lord of the Rings
- Chronicles of Narnia

- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Chronicles of Narnia
- Cost of Discipleship Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Night by Elie Weisel
- Confessions: St. Augustine
- Anne Frank
- The Hiding Place: Story of Corrie Ten Boom
- A Christmas Carol
- Strangers and Sojourners by Michael O'Brien
- The Father Brown Mysteries: GK Chesterton
- Hinds Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard
- Father Elijah by Michael O'Brien
- Count of Monte Cristo
- Pilgrims Progress by John Bunyun
- The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henry Nouwen

#### RESOURCES

- **Formed in Faith** (Sessions for Inquiry, Catechumenate, and Ongoing Faith Formation), Mary Birmingham. World Library Publications ([wlpmusic.com](http://wlpmusic.com))
- **Confirming Adult Catholics**: Five Sessions for Preparation and Reflection, Mary Birmingham. World Library Publications ([wlpmusic.com](http://wlpmusic.com))
- **Purified and Enlightened** - RCIA Sessions for Lent, Mary Birmingham. World Library Publications ([wlpmusic.com](http://wlpmusic.com))
- **Year Round Catechumenate** Mary Birmingham, Liturgical Training Publications
- **Faith, Life and Creed** (A Complete Catechesis for Christian Life (User friendly sessions for breaking open the Word for every Sunday of each cycle plus 41 doctrinal sessions). Available through ([TEAMRCIA.COM](http://TEAMRCIA.COM))).
- **Word and Worship Workbook, Year A, B and C**, Mary Birmingham, Paulist Press
- FACEBOOK Mary Birmingham RCIA
- [mary.birmingham@icloud.com](mailto:mary.birmingham@icloud.com)