

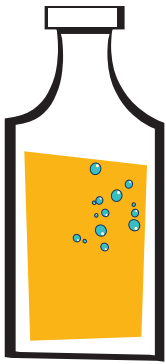


# MY KIDology NOTES

**Bringing  
Stories to  
LIFE!**

Stories are definitions to children! This workshop will provide both presentation tips and ideas for tools you can use to make your stories even more exciting!

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## WORKSHOP NOTES FOR

# The Power of Stories

Stories are definitions to children! Kids learn best through stories. The better the story, the more they will learn and remember. Learning to improve on your story-telling is one of the best investments you can make in becoming a more effective teacher. This workshop will provide both presentation tips and ideas for tools you can use to make your stories even more exciting!

### I. PRIMARY PRINCIPLES

- #1 NO PRIDE You! You must “die to self.” If you are truly to be a great story teller. *Why?* Because if you are thinking about how you look or what people are thinkin, you will be hindered from doing your best. All that matters is the story, and communicating it.
- #2 YOU MUST GET INTO THE STORY and the story must get “into” you. It cannot be this stale list of facts you wish to pass on to the boys and girls. It must be a real event in history. You must think about what it *felt like* to be there. What were the *sights* and *sounds* around the characters? As one teacher explained it to me, “You must get behind the eyeballs of one of the characters.

A crucial key to being a good storyteller is the ability to relax and concentrate on a freedom of expression most of us are usually embarrassed to have. My definition of a good story is a vivid portrayal of persons, events and things which come to life before the listener and remain alive in the mind and heart of the listener long after the storyteller has finished telling the story.

- Pastor Jeff Bradley

- #3 PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!  
The more you tell stories, the better you will become! Practise parts of your story in front of a mirror. If you have children, practise on them! Just like the kids, you learn by doing. Experiment with some of the ideas you will gain today.



## II. What makes a GREAT STORY TELLER?

### #1 EYE CONTACT

Make sure you keep strong eye contact with everyone who is listening. Play a mental game in the back of your mind where you try to give EVERY SINGLE PERSON some significant eye contact during the story. Leave no one out, not even the guy in the sound booth. Eye contact gives you a private connection to another person. It lets them know you know they are there and they are important to you. Anyone who never receives eye contact will be left feeling like an outsider, or just an observer rather than an active participant.

### #2 EXAGGERATED FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Your face should reflect whatever emotion is in the story. If someone is sad, you should *look sad*. If someone is angry, your face should tense up. If someone is excited your eyes should be wide open! Your expressions will either draw them into the story, or put them to sleep.

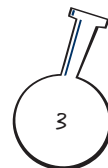
### #3 EXAGGERATED GESTURES VOICE & DESCRIPTIONS

Exaggerate your gestures, your voice inflections, and your descriptions. Obviously, don't say things that aren't true, but make what is true, *very true!* My mom liked to call me a "living cartoon" and I liked that description. A good story teller will be all over the place! Use sweeping gestures to describe things. Let your voice bring the story to life. As with facial expressions, your voice should reflect how things were said. If someone shouted, then *SHOUT!* If someone whispered, so should you. Your job as a story teller is to make the story as real as possible. It is to make people feel like they were there, or better yet, like they *are* there during your story.

*Don't let this happen to you...*  
Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Acts 20:9

### #4 TELL IT LIKE YOU WERE THERE YESTERDAY!

Tell it like it is the most important story of the hour..... *because it is!*



Bringing Stories to LIFE!  
**MY KIDOLGY NOTES**

Today Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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Equipping and Encouraging Those Who Minister to Children