



PART 5

Telling God's Story

→ If someone asked you to explain the Gospel to them, could you do it? How long would it take? Could you do it in 60 seconds? Perhaps one of you could have a go!!

→ Have you had the opportunity and how did it go? Have you had the privilege of leading someone to the Lord and how did it feel?

5 BIG CHALLENGES:

1. LENGTH

- * SHORT & SUCCINCT is much more difficult than LONG-WINDED & DETAILED.
- * KISS always rules.

→ Why is the window of opportunity usually short? How do you recognise whether or not it's the right time to tell your God story?

→ How do you discern the difference between a distraction and a genuine stumbling-block? How might you deal with each?

2. EMPHASIS

- * Centre-point of Christianity is CROSS and RESURRECTION ... so the aim is to TELL the STORY of JESUS.
- * The Bible is God's LOVE LETTER and culminates when He SENDS JESUS.
- * God SAW SIN, SENT SAVIOUR, SUPPLIED SALVATION.
- * As with your own story, BEFORE / JESUS / AFTER.

→ What are the key words you might find yourself using in your God story? What are the sorts of details that are unnecessary? What absolutely must be in there?

Bill Bright / Campus Crusade for Christ's 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

- God LOVES YOU and has a wonderful PLAN for your life (John 3:16, 10:10)
- Humanity is tainted by SIN and therefore SEPARATED from God. As a result we cannot know God's wonderful plan for our lives (Rom 3:23, 6:23).
- Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for our SIN. Through Jesus Christ we can have our sins FORGIVEN and relationship with God RESTORED (Rom 5:8, John 14:6)
- We must place our FAITH in Jesus Christ as SAVIOUR in order to receive the GIFT of SALVATION and know God's wonderful plan for our lives (John 1:12, Acts 16:31, Eph 2:8-9).

→ Is this helpful? Too simple? Could you remember it? Do you know those Bible verses? If you were planning something similar, what would it say?

3. CLARITY

- * Don't OVERCOMPLICATE ... Don't beat yourself up if you OMIT DETAILS.

- * Best advice: Keep bringing the conversation BACK to JESUS.

→ "Things to avoid: Deep theology, complex concepts, controversial issues, religioneese, heaviness, condemnation." Can you give any examples?

→ Is there anything about your personal story that would particularly inspire your God story? Something you've experienced / learned / really means something to you?

4. RELEVANCE

- * Use conversational CLUES as your FOCAL POINT ... Then tell them about JESUS.

→ How might you weave things like the follow into your God story? How is Christianity different from all the other world religions ... My life has left me with feelings of guilt, shame, failure, disappointment ... I'm lost and lonely ... I'm an intellectual seeker ... I think God is unreachable, untouchable, unknowable ... In my opinion, God is angry and vengeful; why all the suffering?

- * i) EXPLORE ii) STIMULATE iii) SHARE

→ Is this a helpful triplet? How does it work?

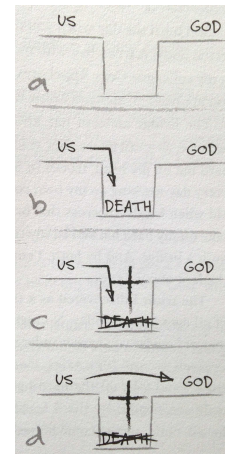
5. CHALLENGE

- * How STRONG? As always, thank goodness for the HOLY SPIRIT..
- * Remember YOUR job and HIS ... Who SOWS SEED and who MAKES IT GROW? (John 16:8)
- * You almost never make a DECISION based on 100% CERTAINTY ... There's always a STEP of FAITH.

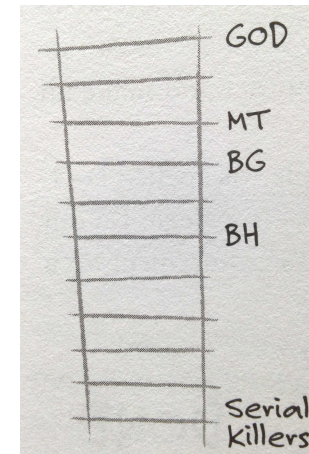
→ Give examples of other situations where people tend to press forward without 100% certainty. Does that make sense in the context of a decision to trust Jesus? Is it realistic to expect all doubts and uncertainties to be dealt with before we become a Christian?

BILL HYBELS' 3 ILLUSTRATIONS

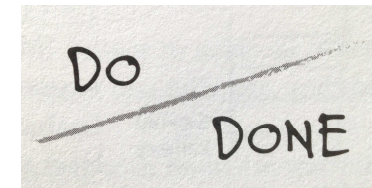
The Bridge



The Morality Ladder



Do v Done



→ Could you take someone through this illustrations? Which would you choose? Have you seen any other good ways of explaining the gospel?