
FIVE POINT - DIALOGUE

After every story is a period of dialogue. We do not use the 5 QUESTIONS but we reserve five periods of dialogue. Each of the periods of dialogue have a specific goal:

FACTS	GOAL : To review and nail down essential facts
FOCUS	GOAL : To know and understand the character of GOD
FEEL	GOAL : To teach and admonish one another
FIND	GOAL : To identify what is righteous (right living)
FOLLOW	GOAL : To apply the truths of the story

ONE

Story Teller: Tells the crafted Bible Story

DIALOGUE: FACTS

GOAL: Review Facts

What happened? Who? What? When? Where?

A number of questions and techniques can be used to have the person or group re-tell the story, You want to make sure that the facts of the story are understood. When you ask what happened always lead the person or group to re-tell the story chronologically. You can ask, "What happened next?" "Where did that happen?" "How many were there?" "Who met the man?" "What did she do?" Storyteller: Stories the COMPLETE story.

GROUP TIP: Be sure you do not allow one person to re-tell the story. As one person begins to re-tell the story then stop them and let another continue then stop them and let another continue. Provide everyone a chance to rebuild the story. When a fact is missed then stop and let the group fill in the gaps.

IMPORTANT: If an important fact is missed then be sure to stop and retell the story so the missed FACT is seen and absorbed within the context of the story.

You should never FEED or GIVE the facts. The individual or group needs to discover the facts from the story itself. Sometimes the group will want to start talking about how the story made them feel. Affirm, smile, and then ask them to hold that thought so we can talk about it fully at the appropriate time.

TWO

Ask the individual or group to watch the story again and focus specifically on what they notice about GOD (or Jesus / or Holy Spirit).

Story Teller: Tells the same Bible Story AGAIN

DIALOGUE: FOCUS

GOAL: Know God, Jesus

What do you notice / see / learn about GOD – JESUS – HOLY SPIRIT?

Old Testament stories will contain mostly information about GOD / HOLY SPIRIT. New Testament stories will also contain mostly information about JESUS. The purpose is to dialogue about what is seen/noticed/learned about GOD or JESUS. Allow the group to dissect as much as they want the conversations and interactions between characters and GOD. You can ask what did GOD do? What did he say?

IMPORTANT: As you draw out the group, lead the group to identify the character of GOD. For example (Rich Young Ruler Story) the Deaf person might say, “Jesus told the young man to sell everything and give to the poor.” Then you could ask: “What does that show you about Jesus heart / character?”

Individuals that grew up in the church or are already familiar with the story might seek to give an answer common to communication about Jesus. For example they might say, “Jesus loves everybody.” If you see a comment is not something observed in the story but just added, then take an authority position and ask the group to stick to the story. You can say, “In what story did you observe that?” They might answer. You say, “That is interesting. Maybe we can study that story later.” Then take the attention of the group back to the story.

TIP: I will end by recapping what everyone said. I will say from the story you John noted that Jesus could read the man’s mind / omniscient. And you Sally – you noticed that Jesus felt mercy. And you Mark noticed that Jesus spoke with authority ... etc. After a while the group will do this themselves.

THREE

Story Teller: Tells the Bible Story AGAIN

DIALOGUE: FEEL

GOAL: Teach each other

In many places and with many groups this part of the dialogue can last several hours. It is an opportunity for the individual or group to interact with the story personally. The leader should fade into the background and become one of the group. There should be shared dialogue. Each individual needs to be given protection and opportunity to share, to teach, to question, to ponder, to express doubts, to encourage.

I will begin this section by asking the individual or group “What bothers you, what questions pop in your head, what did you like that happened, what touched you, or what confused you? How did the story make you feel?”

I make mental notes I later record. If someone says, “this story help me see that Jesus is GOD,” then that is very important to me to remember. It tells me about their worldview and that I can use this story later with someone who does not believe Jesus is God.

Groups and individuals that feel safe to be honest and raw with their thoughts will be the ones that most benefit. The Holy Spirit is powerful and I am always moved how He works and speaks to and through the group. For example a person might say, “I have a hard time accepting that God did that.” I do not feel the need to change their thoughts or doubts. I know and trust the Holy Spirit will do that. I will ask what others think. Many will agree but given the support and time to grapple with a question this same group will find an answer. Allow the group time (unlimited time) to deal with the various aspects of a story. This is when they can ask each other questions.

Many have accused StoryOne of excluding “the teachings of the scripture”. The truth is that StoryOne provides the widest opportunity for teaching. Instead of one central leader being the teacher, the group becomes active participants in their own learning and is empowered to teach what the Holy Spirit is revealing to them. I have seen an eight year old speaks profound truth to the adults. I have seen a new believer speak truth to a long time Christian.

What if during this course of dialogue some erroneous thought or wrong teaching is stated. When one of the group says something that is felt to be very wrong or heretical or false the first step is to see if the group is given time to hash it out and will come to agree on truth. This is usually what happens. IF NOT? Then I let a story clarify the story. I will tell another story that will bring clarity. WHEN? Sometimes later and sometimes at that moment.

Four

By now the group has seen the story at least three times. Ask someone in the group to tell the Bible Story. Protect the person. Allow them to tell the entire story (mistakes and all) without being interrupted. You want the group to see you will keep them “safe” while they are trying. After they FINISH telling the story then you can allow the group to fill in the gaps then ask the person if they want to try again. Be sure to affirm the person.

DIALOGUE: FIND

GOAL: understand what is right / wrong

Ask the group to tell you what they have identified in the story that is wrong and what is right. Avoid using the word “sin” and “holy”. Use everyday terms. A father will tell his child, “Wrong!” Within their Deaf Community they have opinions about what is right and what is wrong. But GOD view of right and wrong are not the same. So this time of dialogue is to identify not what we think is right and wrong but what do we see from GOD’s view what is right or wrong.

What any group likes to do is have someone tell the story again. As soon as they see something that they think is RIGHT or WRONG they will pretend to hold a remote control and dramatize hitting pause! Then they will discuss whether what they observed is right or wrong. Then they continue with the story.

It is amazing but in almost every story one will discover what is right to do or what is wrong to do.

TIP: If the story clearly shows something that is WRONG. You can ask what is the opposite? If that is wrong then what is right?

Before concluding this section of the dialogue, review with the group. See if everyone caught what was said about what is wrong and right and if there is a consensus. If there is not then give that person an opportunity to express his or her thoughts.

It is during this time the group identifies what GOD requires us to do. What is right to DO. The longer you work with your group the more skilled they will become at seeing what is DESCRIPTIVE (details that told what happened) and what is PRESCRIPTIVE (set down as a rule or guide). They will (through the work of the Holy Spirit) begin to see when something is described and when something is clearly prescribed.

For example, in the story prior to the Pentecost, the disciples picked a new apostle (to fill the 12th position). They drew lots. Is this descriptive or prescriptive? One group after a long discourse felt it was not prescriptive but descriptive – not a matter of right or wrong but simply what happened.

Five

By now the group has seen the story at least four times. Ask someone else in the group to tell the Bible Story. Protect the person. Allow them to tell the entire story (mistakes and all) without being interrupted. You want the group to see you will keep them “safe” while they are trying. After they FINISH telling the story then you can allow the group to fill in the gaps. Then ask the person if they want to try again. This is when I allow the story to be told several times. If possible I like for every person to stand up and tell the story.

DIALOGUE: FOLLOW

GOAL: Obedience

This is not a group discussion with repeated exchange but a dialogue where each person contributes an answer. They share what they will do (from now on) to obey this story.

What will you change about yourself?

How will you act different?

What will you fix in your life?

What will you do from now on?

This is not an optional response. I make clear that we have something to learn from every story. We do not want to be Pharisees – full of knowledge with no obedience – but we want to let the Holy Spirit to speak to us and show us what we can do, how we can change, and what we can improve. Every person must give an answer.