

Master Stories: Sharing Biblical Stories

by Bob Lockhart

PowerPoint slides reflecting on the biblical stories we tell, and the spirituality and faith stance in our camping program

Assumption: James Fowler—Stages of Faith

- Faith is a human universal.
- We are endowed at birth with the capacity for faith.
- How these capacities are activated and grow depend on how we are welcomed into the world and what kind of environment we grow in.

Faith Is Interactive and Social

Faith involves:

- community
- language
- ritual
- nurture

Faith Is a Gift

Faith is shaped by:

- the initiatives of others beyond ourselves
- other people
- the Holy Spirit

How these initiatives are recognized and imaged, or unperceived and ignored, powerfully affects the shape of our lives.

Faith Is a Way of Seeing, a Way of Knowing

- oneself
- oneself in relation to others
- oneself against the background of shared meaning and purpose (the Big Picture or one's Ultimate Concern or God)

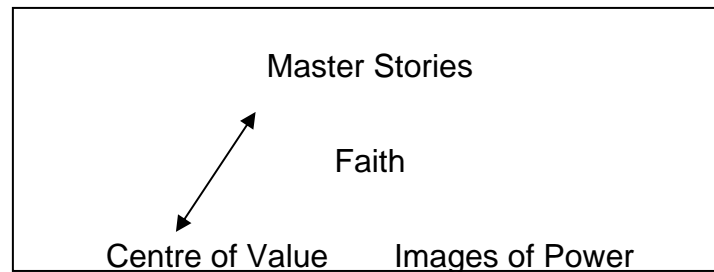
Faith Is a Verb

- It is relational.
- I trust in...and am loyal to...
- We invest or devote ourselves because the other to which we commit ourselves has value, and, in turn, value is conferred on us.

Faith Is Shaped by

- our centres of value
- our images of power
- the master stories we tell

Three Components of Faith



At Camp

- we form relationships
- we live as a community
- we participate in a variety of rituals
- we engage in intentional "God talk"
- we share stories
- we share our faith: our images of God
- we share our values: what is important to us

Faith Development Theory

Faith Development Theory invites us to think about:

- the kinds of stories we tell
- what we value
- the images of power we hold up

Faith Is Shaped by

- our centre of value
 - what we deem to be worthy of worship, allegiance, and trust
- our images of power
 - the images of power we hold dear and align ourselves with to sustain us in the midst of life
- master stories
 - the stories we tell, by which we interpret and respond to events that impinge upon our lives

Master Stories

- What are your favourite biblical stories?
- What stories do you like to tell at camp?
- With which biblical character do you identify?

A Master Story

- What centre(s) of value are present?
- What images of power are present?
- In telling this story, what are we saying
 - about God?
 - about who we are called to be as a community of faith?
 - about the exercise of power?

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada, United Church Publishing House, p. 918.)

God's Kin-dom

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Matthew 19:13–15)

A Master Story

- What centre(s) of values are present?
- What image(s) of power?
- What images of discipleship?
- What images of community/church?

Master Stories

- Jesus listens: the healing of Bartimaeus (faith) (Mark 10:46–52)
- Jesus shows compassion: the healing of a paralytic brought by friends (Luke 5:17–26)
- Jesus loves: the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)
- Jesus transforms: the healing of the woman who is bent over (Luke 13:10–17), or Paul is transformed (Acts 9:1–22)
- Jesus invites: the parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:12–24)

Reflection

- What did I find helpful?
- What do I need to search out further?
- How will this help our camp?