

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to highlight particular focuses, and not to replace the reading of the reference material. The reference book is *SHAPED BY THE STORY: Helping Students Encounter God in a New Way*, by Michael Novelli, Zondervan, ISBN 978-0-310-27366-0 Online: www.onestory.org

CHAPTER 10

WORKING THROUGH A STORY OBSERVATION EXERCISE

Read the following passage slowly three times. Between readings, let's answer the following questions:

As evening fell, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took him just as he was and started out, leaving the crowds behind (though other boats followed). But soon a terrible storm arose. High waves began to break into the boat until it was nearly full of water and about to sink. Jesus was asleep at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. Frantically they wakened him, shouting, "Teacher, don't you even care that we are all about to drown?" Then he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet down!" And the wind fell, and there was a great calm! And he asked them, "Why were you so fearful? Don't you even yet have confidence in me?" And they were filled with awe and said among themselves, "Who is this man, that even the winds and seas obey him?"

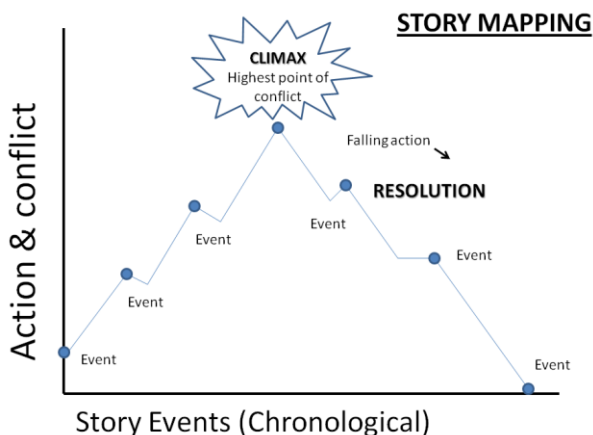
Mark 4: 35-41(Living Bible)

FIRST READING -ANY QUESTIONS?

- Is there anything you don't understand?
- Is there anything that surprises you?
- Is there anything that piques your curiosity?
- Is there anything that strikes you as significant?

SECOND READING -PLOT DEVELOPMENT

- What are the main events of this story? List the events in order
- Where is tension building and what problems arise?
- Where is the high point in the action? Where is the climax?
- How did the story end? Were the tensions resolved? How?



THIRD READING- CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

- Were any phrases repeated in the story?
- Where does the story take place? What is the culture like?
- List the main characters and describe character traits of each from this story; their words, deeds, strengths, and weaknesses.
- What emotions were expressed, if any, by each character?
- Which characters do you identify with the most? Why?

STORYTELLING ESSENTIALS

Stick to the story. Strive to be as accurate as possible. Don't mix in other elements from your knowledge of future stories.

Tell the story from beginning to end; don't stop! Stopping to answer a question, teach, etc. causes confusion. Save it for the dialogue time.

Be genuinely animated and enthusiastic! Use gestures, and facial expressions; keep them natural.

Avoid joking and sarcasm. They can project a very different meaning from the Biblical meaning..

Be aware of your pacing. Pacing involves both the volume and rate at which you speak. Dialogue slows a story's pace, while narrating action speeds it up.

Repeat, repeat, repeat! Repetition is basic element of storytelling.

Be humble. Tell stories with servanthood and sincerity.

Be patient with the process. At first, some in your group may believe this process is too basic. After you're a few stories into it, they'll realize how much there is to be learned.

Relax and be yourself. Develop your own style.

A TYPICAL STORY SESSION

BUILD Community (game, connect relationally)	30 minutes
REVIEW previous stories (fast-paced, use symbols)	15 minutes
PREPARE for imaginative listening (repetitive, go into story mode, prop like a candle)	2 minutes
NARRATE the story	10 minutes
Help group RETELL the story	20 minutes
DIALOGUE (discussion) about the story	40 minutes
CONNECT the story to our own stories	10 minutes

(Note: In all likelihood, we won't have this much time, but it gives us a sense of proportion.)