

STORYFEST



Gathering a group for *StoryFest* is a bit like organizing a potluck dinner. Everyone brings something. Some dishes are more tasty, some more nutritious than others, but all are welcome. Nobody is criticized for what they bring.

Sharing and Learning - A Few Suggestions

A Different Kind of Gathering

A group of people getting together for the *StoryFest* videos is as much a social gathering as a study group. There's a leader to keep things organized, but no "instructor" or "expert." The point of the *StoryFest* videos is to help people enjoy the rich and varied stories of the Bible, and discover ways in which those stories connect with their lives. Because it's based on hearing and connecting with stories, people from a wide variety of denominations, theologies, and cultures can enjoy *StoryFest* together. It's not about discussing different beliefs, and it's not about showing how much you know about the Bible. It is very important that people who know virtually nothing about religion, spirituality or the Bible feel as comfortable as the seasoned veterans.

StoryFest is not so much a "study" as an experience.

Promotion

StoryFest can be used in everything from large congregations to small, informal gatherings of friends, to meetings of "emergent" or "house" churches. Advertising and promotion can take many forms, but the essential element is always enthusiasm. People need information about the "where" and "when," but it's one person's excitement that will bring them out.

Getting Ready

The *StoryFest* videos are available free on You Tube under '*Pacific Mountain StoryFest*' and on the Wood Lake Publishing's website (at www.woodlakebooks.com/storyfest/). Check to make sure you have a strong enough WiFi signal in the place where you meet. Use a computer that has a large enough screen so that everyone can see, and a loud speaker so folks can hear what is being said.

Leadership

The role of the leader is to keep things organized, to encourage but not push people to share, and to enjoy the process. If the leader is having fun, the others will too. The leader needs to feel comfortable managing a small group, but there's no input or content needed. That's all on the video. A bit of tea, coffee, juice, or wine always helps people loosen up a little. It's always nice to get started with a bit of small talk, and catching up on people's lives.

The Videos

Each video is between 30 and 40 minutes long. Your meetings can be as long as you want them to be, but an hour and a half usually seems about right. The videos are in a sequence that's roughly as the stories appear in the Bible, but you can use them in any order you wish.

Resources

Many of the little dramas and poems heard on the videos are available for free download. Just go to the Wood Lake Publishing website, www.woodlake.com for these, the *StoryFest* videos and many other fine books and resources.

Getting Creative

Feel free to use the *StoryFest* videos in any way that meets your needs. Some of the videos were recorded in a worship service, and they can work quite well that way, especially in small gatherings. The various segments of the video can be interspersed with songs and prayers and other worship elements. You might decide to use just one or two segments in your service.

StoryFest was produced with small gatherings and congregations in mind. A helpful companion is *Sing Hallelujah!* a great sing-along resource when there is no music leadership available. It's also there on the Wood Lake Publishing website. www.woodlake.com

The Book

The companion book, *The Gift of Story* can be helpful, but there's no specific reference to the book in the videos except at the end when people are encouraged to order it from Wood Lake Publishing. It's also available on Amazon and in many bookstores. Many parts of *The Gift of Story* arose out of the *StoryFest* gatherings, so reading it can enrich your experience. **It's written in a light-hearted, easy-going style.**

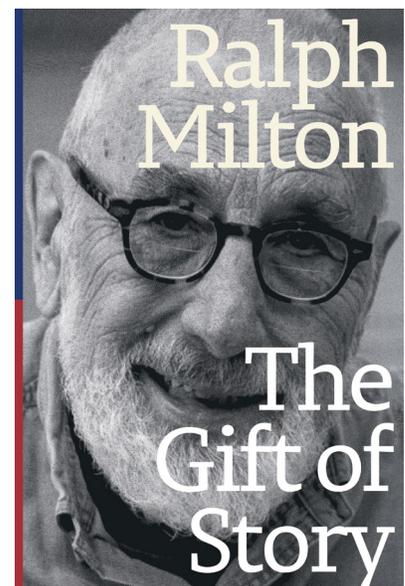
Religious Biography & Autobiography

6" x 9" | Paperback | 234 pages

ISBN 978-1-77343-032-4

Online at Wood Lake Publishing: \$15.96

Amazon: \$19.95 | Kindle: \$9.98 | eBook: \$9.98



ENJOY!