The Power of Your Story

Don't stop reading yet! Most people do when they hear the subject matter, but please don’t.

Each year with your 7th graders I walk them through a laboratory to help them tell their own story. The context we use is, “Tell everything that happened to you this morning from the moment you were fast asleep until your feet hit the ground of your bedroom floor.” Sound interesting?

The stories are so diverse. They range from “my alarm went off and I got up” to “I woke up looked at my phone. My dad came in and said get up. It was cold, I pulled the covers over my head and played a game on my phone. My dad came in and said get up again. I kept playing my game, text my friend and then my dad turned on the lights, pulled the covers off me and said ‘your bus is coming in 15 minutes,’ so I got up.”

We laugh at each others stories and note how similar (they all end up out of bed) and different (many paths to getting on our feet) they are. Then, I reveal, a simple but until that moment, hidden truth - you have just given a testimony! You have just told us all the truth of your life before you got out of bed this morning. It wasn’t hard, you knew just what to say.

Don't stop reading yet! Even if you have figured out the subject matter.

Obviously this is a thinly veiled plan to lead our students to, using the very same dynamic of telling what happened to them, give their faith testimony. I give them a few helps like; tell us how you first heard about Jesus and tell us where and when that was? Tell us the most important conversation you have ever had about the Lord and tell us how your life is different now that you believe than it was before you believed.

At first, like most adults they are hesitant to talk about their faith story. Somewhere along the line they seem to have learned that talking about such things was not really proper. But, once they get going, their stories are wonderful, pure and inspiring. All they do is tell their faith story: In fact, often they will include a story from Summer Games or 4:12 when someone told their story and the power it had in their life.

Don't stop reading yet!

People love stories. They love stories that challenge them, inspire them, make them laugh or cry. Your friends want to hear your story and I pray you have the courage to tell it. Don't try to make it profound, perfect or anything other than true. (In fact, one of my best Confirmation testimonies ever goes something like “my parents believe in God. They wanted me too also. They brought me to church, Sunday School and VBS. Now I believe in God.”) Simple, un perfected, unscripted and true. That’s a story.

Your story has power. It’s personal. You don’t have to memorize bible verses or worry about telling it in a perfect way. Your story is conversational, it’s not a sermon - it’s way better. You can tell your story in a diner, coffee shop, on a golf course and at work. Your story is indisputable. It’s yours. If it is genuine - if you have joy, peace, and love in your life as a result of knowing Christ, you won’t have to sell it - they will see it. Your story is interesting. Friends always want to know more about each other, they will be honored to hear one of the core stories of your being.

Obviously, this is a thinly veiled plan to lead you to tell your faith story/testimony. The world will be transformed by people of faith who tell their stories so others can hear. Romans 10:17 says: “So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ” and since you have it, it is incumbent upon you to let others hear your story.

Your lives have been transformed gradually or dramatically by your faith story. Don’t deny your friends hearing your story. You do have one - it’s why you read this article, attend worship, contribute your time, treasure and talents to the Kingdom of God through the church.

If it helps, consider telling how you first heard about Jesus and tell us where and when that was? Tell the most important experience you have ever had that helped you know that God was real. Tell the most important conversation you have ever had about the Lord and how your life is different now that you believe than it was before you believed.

This I promise, if you rehearse this in your mind, you will be astonished how MUCH you know about the Lord and how MUCH you love him.

Now, stop reading - you have a story with great power to tell, go tell it!

Pastor Mike
Volunteers Needed!!

Volunteers needed for special projects surrrounding outreach at the Swamp Fox Parade. Contact the Church Office at 319-377-4856 for more information.

Down-sizing at home or just too much clutter?

Our UMW has the answers! The Wesley General Store is looking for all of your items to sell in their 2 rooms at the time of the Fall Bazaar, Saturday, October 14! All proceeds benefit UMW missions.

Just a reminder: We do the pricing and we do not proceed the proceeds benefit UMW missions.

Want to get rid of the “stuff” now? Email Diane Beach, JLF60@aol.com or 319-373-3212.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Fawcett at JLF60@aol.com or 319-373-3212.

Christmas for Haiti

Marion Methodist is collecting bags for the children of Haiti. One gallon Ziplock bags along with the gift suggestion sheet will be available for pickup on Sunday, September 10 in the Narthex. Sheets will need to be marked with appropriate age and gender and be placed in the bag. Bags will need to be turned in no later than September 24. There will be a list of suggested items on the sheet but will include items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, washcloth and bar of soap, travel size shampoo, school supplies, such as pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, crayons, etc. Small toys, socks, and many other items are also on the list that will be included in the bags.

These bags will go to the children of Haiti that many of our church members have met and worked with during our nine mission trips to Haiti.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorie or Bill Bramley at 319-530-8844 or email Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org.

Found Item

Among books donated to the 2017 UMW Bazaar we are looking for all of your items to sell in their 2 rooms at the time of the Fall Bazaar, Saturday, October 14! All proceeds benefit UMW missions.

We are currently looking for any of your children’s books that your children have outgrown. We do not need textbooks. If you are interested in donating books, please contact Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org or call the church office by September 29 and describe the books you would like to donate. It will be returned to you. If you intended to donate this item, thank you! It will be sold for the good of missions supported by United Methodist Women.

Marion Methodist is Praying for:

Prayer is a powerful way of caring for each other in our Marion Methodist family. There are several avenues open to everyone – the prayer cards on Sunday morning and the prayer wall which is available 24/7, are two that are used most often. You can have a more active part in entering into prayer for each other. Check out the prayer wall frequently as prayers are submitted there often. Each time you visit, and pray for one of the requests found there, click the “I Prayed For This” tab; more prayers are always better.

Please be in prayer for:

All students, staff and volunteers who are back in school. Pray for a safe, productive and fun school year.

Fall 2017 Adult Discipleship Opportunities

Adult Sunday School – Room 105 – Sunday at 9:45AM
Beginning on September 10

Sunday School is not just for kids! We are always growing and seeking to learn more about our Lord. Join us on Sunday mornings as we discuss the scriptures and learn together. A Lifeguide Bible Study will be selected for this group and will be announced soon!

You’re Already Amazing – Room 104 – Sunday at 9:45AM
Beginning on September 10

With this heart-to-heart message, licensed counselor and certified life coach Holley Gerth invites you to embrace one very important truth—that you truly are already amazing. Like a trusted friend, Holley gently shows you how to forget the lies and expectations the world feeds you and instead believe that God loves you and has even bigger plans for your life than you’ve even imagined. We invite you to join us for this wonderful women’s Bible Study.

Disciple III – Room 106 – Sunday at 9:45 AM
Beginning on September 10

Disciple III Remember Who You Are is the third study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The driving idea in this study is the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word You in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. Participants in this 32 week study will spread over a two year time frame. You will read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and will read the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul. To establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments draw also on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles.

Old Testament Studies – Room 107 – Sunday at 9:45 AM
Beginning on September 10

This year we will be continuing our study of the “History Books” of the Old Testament. We will begin with the Book of 1st Kings, which tells the story of the life and reign of Solomon, David’s successor to the throne of Israel. We will discuss how internal dissent and external hostilities eventually led to dividing the kingdom into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Basic Bible – Room 105 – Wednesday at 6:30PM
Beginning on September 6

Precept Upon Precept: Revelation Part 3 – Room 105
Begins September 7

Precept Upon Precept: Revelation Part 3 – Room 105
Thursdays 5:30—7:30PM or Fridays 9:30—11:30AM

Revelation Part 3 - What Is the Sign of His Coming and of the End of the Age? Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels—realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days.

Traveling Light – Room 103 – Wednesday at 6:30PM
Beginning on September 6

Traveling Light – Room 103 – Wednesday at 6:30PM

Weary travelers. You’ve seen them—everything they own crammed into their luggage. Staggering through terminals and hotel lobbies with overstuffed suitcases. Backs ache. Feet burn. Eyelids droop. We’ve all seen people like that. At times, we are people like that—as if not with our physical luggage, then at least with our spiritual load. We all lug loads we were never intended to carry. Fear. Worry. Discontent. Not wonder we get so weary. We’re worn out from carrying that excess baggage. Wouldn’t it be nice to lose some of those bags? With the Twenty-third Psalm as our guide, let’s release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear. May God use this Psalm to remind you to release the burdens you were never meant to bear.

Disciple Fast Track – Room 107 – Thursdays 6:30-7:45PM
Begins September 7

Disciple I Fast Track – Room 107 – Thursdays 6:30-7:45PM
Begins September 7

Prepare yourself to be immersed into the Holy Bible. Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, Disciple Bible Study, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text. Fast Track groups meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes.

Register for classes online at www.MarionMethodist.org or by emailing Jen Digmann at jdigmann@MarionMethodist.org
As we transition to our new facility on REC Drive, a free standing external storage building will be constructed to house many items that will directly support the ministries of Marion Methodist. The building will be adjacent to the parking lot on the west side of our new facility.

Construction of the building will be coordinated with the development of our parking lots and other concrete to be poured yet this Fall. The building will feature an equipment bay for light lawn care and snow removal equipment, space for inside storage of trailers, a repair workshop for the custodial staff, and enough room to store equipment and materials that are needed only occasionally in the main facility.

The building will have footings below the frost line, foundation walls and a concrete floor. It will be fully insulated and moderately climate controlled to allow for a wider range of materials to be properly stored.

An enclosure for our dumpsters will be integrated with this building. This location will move the dumpsters over 250 feet from the West entrance and provide a clear path for the dump trucks for pickup.

Several overhead doors and an extra-wide passage door will provide for access into the building. Windows will be kept to a minimum as they are not necessary for a storage building. Some utilities will be extended to the building to facilitate its operation.

This building will provide us the ability to keep our main facility clear and free of extra tables and chairs when not in use, and a clean space to store items that are collected for once a year mission activities.

Lee Coppock and John Terry

---

**Meal Schedule:**
- 9/13 Dairy Queen
- 9/20 Pizza Ranch

**Powerhouse** meets every Wednesday. From 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm we have a Family Meal (Free Will Offering) and from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm we have activities for all ages.

**Preschoolers:** Kids may forget what you say - but they remember what they discover on their own. Get them “Hands On” with God’s Word. (Room 205)

**Kindergarten - 5th Grade:** Meet a Jesus that is real and relevant in your everyday life! Discover Jesus in you. (Room 303/305)

**4:12 Youth Group:** Junior High Worship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Sanctuary). High School Worship 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Sanctuary). Games will be in the alley

**Adult Classes:** Come for a midweek boost. Check out classes at www.marionmethodist.org

**Nursery:** Offered in the Nursery room located near the elevators

---

**Brookseysley McDonald invites you to join her in celebrating her Great-Grandma, Idella Hogan’s 90th Birthday!**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017**

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Join Idella for cake and celebration.

**No gifts please.**

**TV Broadcast**

Marion Methodist worship services are typically rebroadcasted on Mediacom or ImOn Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings. There is a multiweek delay between when a sermon is preached and when it airs on TV.
### National Worship Leader Conference

In June, a group of leaders from Marion Methodist's Worship and Tech ministry attended the National Worship Leader Conference in Kansas City. This two day event is organized by Worship Leader Magazine, and worship leaders and clinicians from across the country come to lead worship, share their insight, and work with worship leaders in sessions focusing on different aspects of worship leading in churches. Along with Simon Campbell, the Director of Worship and Technology, there were 4 individuals who attended the trip. Eric Brown, Noah Peyton, Logan Barr, and Natalie Peyton. Eric works with the technology ministry for Sunday mornings, and Logan and Noah primarily lead the tech for the 4:12 youth ministry. Natalie recently finished her summer as the church’s music ministry intern. This trip was made possible by funding from the Marion Methodist Foundation, and was a transformative learning experience for everyone involved. Below, the attendees share some reflections from their experience at the National Worship Leader Conference 2017.

**Logan:**
Through my involvement in the conference, I see that even as a techie I have a role that is just as important as the worship band. The tech is what helps people see what the song is, helps people hear all the parts of the band, and can help make the volume a correct setting. I see my role expanding. A role that is just as important as the worship band. The tech is what helps everyone will be able to work together.

**Eric:**
Worship services have evolved to include multiple sound, visual, and lighting sources. The audio and visual (video) portion of the worship service needs to be a team effort with the worship leaders and the audio visual tech members. One area I learned more about is the biblical basis of having music during a worship service and the added importance of understanding the message and history behind worship music and lyrics. One thing I learned, and was not initially aware of, is that a whole industry exists to train worship leaders at a college level course work for music/tech related studies. There is also a whole industry forming to make the worship planning and execution easier with presentation and scheduling software and sound technology. I left the WL Conference with a better appreciation for the weekly task of filling in the time of a worship service that doesn’t involve announcements and the pastoral message/sermon.

**Natalie:**
The National Worship Leader Conference went above and beyond what I expected. I imagined the conference to almost be like a concert that went on for 2 days. However, the conference went beyond that and not only had worship, but had time to learn new things and hear God’s word through scripture. I thought the days would seem long, but they went by so fast. There was so much to do and so many people to learn from. The conference also was very personal and not like I was just being talked at. There was time to discuss and ask questions to help the audience stay engaged throughout the whole day. It also went beyond my expectations by how many types of people they had there. There were people knowledgeable about worship, scripture, technology, instruments, colleges, and so much more. I thought the conference would enhance what I already knew, but it also helped me gain new knowledge to bring back to the church.

### Pantry Partners for Marion Food Pantry
We help folks in need by supplying items for the Marion Churches Food Pantry. You may bring the following items to church any time during each month. Please put your contributions in one of the grocery carts located in the Narthex or at the 8th Avenue glass doors, or in the Mission Depot in Fellowship Hall or the Church Office.

**September:** Soup
**October:** Toiletry Mixes
**November:** Cake Mix

**December:** Pudding and Gelatin Mixes
**January:** Macaroni and Cheese
**February:** Canned Fruit

### Marion Methodist newsletter deadline schedule
Articles for our Marion Methodist need to be submitted by due date at 12:00 PM. You may email them to: [wildman@marionmethodist.org](mailto:wildman@marionmethodist.org) with "newsletter" in the subject line. Please send any information or images as an attachment. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call or bring to the office items to be published. We ask that you honor the deadlines listed below:

- **Date Arrived In Mail**
- **Date Articles Due**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>