



BREAKOUT NOTES

Good Stories, Great God (Biblical Foundation) – Mark Ferrer

Orality Introduction

- The apostle Paul explained the purpose of the Bible to the church at Rome in the following way, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).
- Matthew Harmon writes, “None of us are ancient Israelites following Moses through the wilderness. None of us are eighth-century (BC) Israelites living through the decline of the northern kingdom of Israel. None of us are Jews languishing in exile in Babylon, wondering if God has completely abandoned us. None of us are first-century (AD) Christians living in Rome, Philippi, or Ephesus. But as God’s people, the Bible was written for us to instruct us, empower our perseverance in the faith, and produce hope in the fulfillment of God’s promises.”
- By Biblical Foundation we mean, that we seek to ensure that everything we do will be rooted in the word of God.
- A disciple is one whose life has a Biblical Foundation.
- The disciple-making process of helping others grow spiritually in the context of meaningful relationships requires a Biblical Foundation.
- Intentional Leaders understand that without a Biblical Foundation, you cannot reach the lost or make disciples of Jesus.
- Life Group Leaders understand that you cannot shepherd others towards spiritual maturity without a Biblical Foundation.
- Literally nothing is possible in Life Groups apart from a Biblical Foundation and orality is simply one tool by which we as Life Group Leaders seek to ensure that this takes place.
- Orality means orally telling the stories of the Bible based on chronological order, themes, needs of the audience, and so on.
- There are many reasons the Lord Jesus Christ told stories as he made disciples. Here’s a few of those reasons:
 - *Because most of the people of his day were illiterate*
 - *So that those he was teaching would understand and remember*

- *To keep those who refused to believe from understanding*
- *Because he was transforming their worldview*
- *Because God wired us to like stories*

Orality Exercise

- Now that you've heard what orality is, let's see how it works with an actual story from the Bible.
- First, I'm going to tell you "The Parable of the Prodigal Son" story in my own words.
- Now that you've heard me tell "The Parable of the Prodigal Son" story in my own words, did I miss anything in my telling of the story?
- Let's rebuild the story one or two lines at a time.
- Next, let's read the "The Parable of the Prodigal Son" story in Luke, the original author's words. Please turn with me to the Gospel according to Luke 15:11-32. Everyone please take a few verses and read them aloud.
- Who do you personally relate to in this story right now? Why?

Debrief Orality Exercise

- Did this experience encourage you to get into the Word? Why or why not?
- Did the learning of God's Word take place?
- How do you think participants in your Life Group would respond to orality?

Conclusion

There are going to be times when we pivot to orality as a ministry tool with our Life Groups here at Southeast, instead of our usual sermon-based discussions. We hope this breakout was helpful for you as we implement this tool in our Life Groups here at Southeast.