

BIBLE STORYING GUIDELINES

- Everyone's view is welcomed--no put-downs or correcting.
- Everyone is expected to participate. For many of the questions, there is no one "right" answer. The questions have to do with what you noticed and observed in the story, connections you may have made and questions you have. It is okay to pass or say, "I don't know" what asked a question.
- Ask each other questions about the story.
- Be transparent - we will only grow in our walk with the Lord if we are able to practice the one-anothers - that requires being transparent about the good and the hard things in life.
- When someone else is responding, listen first to what people are saying and not be as quick to give your answer.
- Don't rescue others - if they are having a hard time don't step in to rescue them. Don't try to "fix" someone or give advice without asking if the person wants it.
- Use "I" statements" not 'the church,' 'we,' 'us,' etc.
- Stick to today's story and other stories already discussed. Work to not bring in other Biblical knowledge you may have or stories not yet discussed as a group.
- Use Imaginative Listening: try to picture what is going on in these scenes - what do you see, smell, what are the interaction and emotions going on?

Remember:

- *Listen...* in expectation that God is present and revealing truth through each person.
- *Remember...* discipleship is a life-long journey. Cultivate listening and observation skills that will continue to bear fruit.
- *Trust...* that God will work through the process. Value the experience as much as the knowledge and content.
- *Let Go...* of the role of the expert teacher and embrace the role of co-learner, encourager, and guide.
- *Be Patient...* allow time for process, different opinions, tangents, tension, questions, and wonderings.
- *Have Faith...* that God, through the Holy Spirit, will speak and bring to light the truth and implications God desires to reveal.