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**3Story®**

**Purpose:**

Attendees will:

* understand the practice of Abiding in Christ as essential to Christ-centered leadership.
* practice silence and listening (to the Holy Spirit).
* plan a follow-up “3Story® Conversation”
* connect the practice of abiding with how they live as Christ-centered leaders; specifically, as abiding informs discovering the stories of lost friends and inviting friends to meet and follow Jesus Christ.
* practice an inviting conversation.
* declare applications/practices for abiding, discovering, and inviting in own lives.

**Time Allowed:** 3 hours plus breaks/meals

*Note to Facilitator:*

*There are several sections that ask you to share a personal story. Make sure you allow yourself 2-3 hours to prepare to present your content including your own reflections where requested.*

**Leader’s Script – Session 1**

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|  | 1 hour 20 min | 3Story® Relational Ministry  Abiding |
| **Section Notes** | **Activity Time** | **Content**  *Facilitator*  *Include handout definition of* [*Authentic, Christ-sharing Relationships*](https://yf.cx/RelationalMinistryDefined)*. You will refer to this in opening.*  *You will present a learning activity that should be practiced ahead of time. You will need a large jar with many rocks.*  *You will refer to* [*fill-in-the-blank handout*](https://yf.cx/3Story_Experience_Handout)*.* |
| **Slide 1**  3Story® Holder | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Authentic, Christ-sharing Relationships.  That’s a mouthful.  Maybe it’s a phrase that feels familiar to you.  Tell me what comes to mind when you hear that phrase.  *(Pause 1-2 minutes for group responses.)*  In Youth For Christ, Authentic, Christ-sharing Relationships drive all that we do. In Youth for Christ, authentic, Christ sharing relationships drive all that we do. See the extra handout on your tables that offers a summary explanation of authentic, Christ-sharing relationships.  While the explanation is important and loaded with details,  We want you to know that this is more than a phase!  Relational Ministry is our purpose and **3Story®** is how we start our conversation about Christ-centered leaders engaging in authentic, Christ-sharing relationships.  **3Story®** captures what we mean when we say “relational ministry”.  So welcome to **3Story®**! I’m so glad to be here with you.  Let’s open in prayer…  **Facilitator Does:**  Pause for prayer.  *Heavenly Father, may this time be more than a training event. May we turn our attention to You, to what you have already done, to what you are currently doing and to what you WILL do in us. Because you love us. You dwell in us and you delight in us and so we invite You to shape us now. Amen.* |
| **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 1 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Welcome to our 3Story® learning experience! We’re going to see how we have the opportunity to be a part of God’s Kingdom Building Story… it will be challenging, fun, and perhaps even life-changing!  *(Introduce yourself according to the audience you are speaking to.)* |
| Partner Activity | 5 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Get a partner and tell them what your spiritual life was like as a 15-year-old.  **Facilitator Does:**  Watch clock, give warning to switch turns at 1.5 minutes. |
| **Slide**  So what is 3Story®?  **Slide**  3Story® is a way of life… | 5 min | **Facilitator Says:**  If we went around this room and shared our stories of spiritual life at 15 we would probably have a lot of different experiences. We know that the journey of following Jesus is just that, a journey and that each of our journeys looks different.  In YFC we are called to share Jesus with kids and we believe that the best way to do that is in the context of a relationship in which we invite them to join us in the journey. We enter their stories, helping them see how God is inviting them into His story. This is what we mean when we talk about “Authentic, Christ-sharing Relationships”.  3Story® is the way we express our desire to live a life in which we understand how our own stories are connected to God’s and how My Story connects to the stories of the people around us and how we can help them make connections from their story to God’s.  Let me say that again—3Story® is a way of life. Think about that for a minute. Consider your current way of life. How would you describe it? Is it a “laid-back” way of life? A soccer mom/dad way of life? A football way of life? I have a friend in recovery who says AA is a way of life. You may have heard of 3Story® before, but is it your way of life? What does that look like? Would a few of you share—people who have already been training and living 3Story® would you talk about how it looks in your life?  **Facilitator Does:**  *Ask for 1 or 2 people to share a brief example of how 3Story® looks in their life right now (these could be YFC staff, NSC or field. 2 minutes max for each).* |
| **Slides**  3 Circles  Slide Builds:  GOD’s Story My Story  Their Story  All 3 Circles  3 circles with Abiding and arrows | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Today we are going to be in a learning experience where we uncover and understand at a deeper level what ot means to live a 3Story® way of life. We define 3Story® as a way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news while telling stories of the Good News.  We illustrate it with three circles  (DRAW CIRCLES)  First, we are going to concentrate on this connection between God’s Story and My Story. It is the key to living a life surrendered to the Father. All of our efforts in ministry start with living an ongoing, growing, daily, abiding relationship with the Father.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Be sure to reiterate ABIDE on flip chart as the word that best describes this connection.* |
| **Slide**  Video Dan Abiding  **Slide**  3Story® Holder  **Slide**  2Cor 5:14  **Slide**  3 circles with “abiding” and arrows  *Be sure that you have thought through your personal example prior to teaching.* | 10 min | **Facilitator Says:**  One of the great stories of Jesus’ life and his teaching that directly relates to this is found in John 15. Take a look at this video from Dan Wolgemuth, Pres. Emeritus Of YFC/USA.  [**Dan –Vineyard-Abiding (1.20)**](https://vimeo.com/473177558)*This is a short video of Dan W. defining the abiding connection from branch to vine.* (password – 3Story)  **Facilitator Says:**  Get in groups of 3 and share briefly a story of how you have seen or experienced God’s love in the past week.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Watch the clock, make sure people switch turns in their groups of 3 and give a 1-minute warning.*  **Facilitator Says:**  We’ve been sharing personal stories about experiencing God’s love for us, which should really motivate us to love and serve Him by telling others the Good News of Christ.  Let’s read 2 Cor. 5:14-15 together.  “For Christ’s love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died and was raised again.”  Again, 3Story® is a way of life. Not a tool or a method or a training. We want 3Story® to be our DNA, the way we live. The three circles represent three stories. The more the stories overlap, the more connected we are and the more opportunities our friends have to see and experience the love of Christ and the life He invites us to live.  The more I live in God’s Story the less my story defines me. In other words, in (use your own name here, like, “Nina’s”) story there is a lot of good stuff. Great family, good friends, travel, nice memories, fun, laughter, forgiveness, mercy, healing. But there are also some not so good things; sin, selfishness, scars, broken relationships, bad attitudes, insecurity, anger, etc.….  When I live more deeply connected in more places to God’s Story, there is less of my baggage and more God’s grace evident to the people around me. And when I am leaning into living that way, it is amazing how God moves me into opportunities to join him in the work he is already doing. If I want my lost friends to meet Jesus, my first best step is always to move closer to Him myself. And I do that in a daily abiding relationship with the Father.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Please share a 2-minute personal example of this abiding impacting your relationship with lost friend.* |
| **Slide**  John 15 | 6 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s take our own look at this abiding life that Jesus calls us to. Open your Bibles to **John 15:9-11**. Read along with me.  Now close your eyes and listen as I read it to you. ***John 15:9-11 English Standard Version (ESV)*** ***9****As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.****10****If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.****11****These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*  Now take a few moments and write a note to God in response to Christ’s words in this part of God’s Story. Just write what you feel when you hear these words in John 15.  **Facilitator Does:**  Pause for 5 min, give warning at 4 min |
| **Slide Video**  Efrem at DCLA  **Slide**  Stick with Jesus! | 6 min | **Facilitator Does:**  Interrupt quiet pause with Efrem Video “Stick with Jesus”  [**Efrem video, “Big Turn 2” (4.11)**](https://vimeo.com/487015393) **(password: 3Story)**  **Facilitator Says:**  Stick with Jesus! I love that. It sums up John 15.  My own intimate, growing, life giving connection to God is the key to reach a lost world. We know that God is at work in the lives of people all around us and I notice those opportunities best and I most willingly enter into them when I am connected to the vine.  The question is then, how are you doing at staying connected to the vine?  “Am I living like I trust that Jesus is sufficient and that He values me, or am I placing my trust in what I think I need to accomplish to feel like I have value?”  Am I connected to the vine or am I connected to a list of tasks?  You are going to learn a lot here (through YFC/at Institute) about being effective and the how-to’s of building relationships with kids and empowering ministry teams and applying processes.  But none of that will mean a thing if you aren’t connected to the vine.  You may be able to run what looks like good ministry for a while, but it won’t be fruitful, sustainable ministry if you are disconnected from Jesus.  “Apart from me you can do nothing.” |
| **Slide:**  Spiritual Practices  Silence & Solitude  Scripture Study  Sabbath Rest  Surrender  **Object Lesson Rocks in Jar** | 10 min | *Note to Facilitator: Be prepared to give a personal example of how you practice abiding. Or, consider preparing a friend/attendee to give a short description of what this looks like in his/her ministry life.*  **Facilitator Says:**  So how do I stay connected, what might that look like in my life?  A few exercises or practices to consider:   * Silence and Solitude * Scripture study.  Satan’s greatest desire is to separate us from the Gospel. If I immerse myself in the Word and it remains in me and work to study and know it, I cannot be separated from it or Jesus. * Sabbath rest. The way it is talked about in scripture tells me that God connects Sabbath to Holiness. It’s not a legalism thing, it is a gift from God that we need to accept and pursue into our lives. What does your current sabbath rest look like? Is God inviting you into something more? * Surrender The constant decision I make over and over again; to go my way or to pause, and listen and remember to invite God to direct me in HIS way.   **Facilitator Says:**  Consider your life; all that matters to you. Family, friends, work, church, your career…  All of these important people and responsibilities fill your life and you carry them with you daily…like all the rocks in this jar.  **Facilitator Does:**  *As you name parts of life, place smaller rocks in jar.*  **Facilitator Says:**  Now consider some of the issues that cause you fear or stress. Perhaps you have experienced loss and grief is part of your story. Perhaps you long for friends but you find yourself alone. Maybe your family is growing so your responsibilities are expanding. Perhaps you're not sure what the future holds and you're worried.  Some of those issues might be represented by these bigger rocks.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Add larger rocks to jar, hold jar for attendees to see.*  When I seek to manage people, situations, responsibility... when I seek to handle these things by myself it's like gripping these rocks.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Stick hand in jar, grab rocks, show that your hand gets stuck because you are holding on.*  **Facilitator Says:**  When I intentionally release, when I surrender these important people and responsibilities to Jesus, I experience freedom.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Release the rocks in your hand, and free your hand from the jar.*  **Facilitator Says:**  I know the enemy does not want me to experience freedom. People who feel trapped often create chaos, they hurt people they make bad decisions they hurt themselves.  Surrendering to Jesus leads us to the freedom we receive when we trust that God deeply loves us and will partner with us as we seek him.  That's when I can live like this...  **Facilitator Does:**  *Pour all the rocks out on the table.*  I can see each of the individual people and issues and partner with Jesus in the work that HE is doing in all of these.  What are the rocks in your jar? |
| **Personal Activity**  **Slide**  What does connecting look like in my life right now?  Is there anything I need to surrender?  **Slide:**  Please remain silent for the next 25 minutes.  No music during silence | 30 min | **Facilitator Says:**  SILENCE/SOLITUDE 20-30 MINUTES  We have the opportunity to practice right now. We’re going to take a few minutes to quietly meet with the Father.  As you quiet your mind and heart, consider what connecting to Jesus looks like in your life right now and what might need to change. Think about what you bring with you—your rocks. Is there anything He is inviting you to surrender?  You can use space in this room or move into a quiet space in the hallway. Don’t go back to your room or anyplace where you will be distracted and unable to listen to Jesus. It’s best if you can stay away from your phone or any other distractions, so you might put your phone on “airplane mode” and set the timer for (25 minutes).  We will begin to play some quiet music to draw you back to. The room in about 25 minutes, then we will take a break before our next session.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Watch time, give 1-minute warning.*  *Participate in silence practice.* |
| **Slide Video**  People quoting 2Cor. 5:14-15  **Slide**  2 Cor. 5:14-15  **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 1 min | **Facilitator Does:**  Interrupt the practice of silence with this final video  [Video – 2Cor. 5:14](https://vimeo.com/16556672) 1 MIN. This is a video with multiple faces reciting this bible passage. (password: 3Story)  **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s say that together one more time.  “For Christ’s love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died and was raised again.”  **Facilitator Does:**  Pray for group and then have everyone stand up for a 10-minute stretch break. Then introduce facilitator for session 2. |
|  | 1 min | **Facilitator Says:**  As part of your Institute 3Story® Training, we want to equip YOU to return to chapters, affiliates, boards, local churches and all your ministry teams and train others to live 3Story®. You have access to all our content at our training website and soon, we’ll be offering training through Trailhead. |
|  | 1 min | **Facilitator Does:**  Dismiss for short break declaring “We will begin session 2 in  (10-20) minutes. Grab a soda, stretch and come on back!” |

**Leader’s Script – Session 2**

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|  | **45 min** | **3Story® Discovering Stories** |
| **Section Notes** | **Activity Time** | **Content**  *Facilitator:*  *In this section you will present a learning activity that should be practiced ahead of time. You will need a large bunch of grapes still on the stems. You will need a prepared volunteer. The “Grapes” activity should take a total of 3-5 minutes.*  *In this section you will invite 2 ministry or chapter leaders to come up front and answer the question, “How does “****real love”*** *look when building relationships in JJM/Executive Leadership?”*  *You will need to prepare those leaders in advance, so they have their answers ready.*  *In this section you will lead a conversation around Woman at the Well, asking attendees to listen through the lens of those in the story.* |
| **Slide**  Session 2  **Slide**  3 Circles  **Slide**  3Story® Holder  **Slide**  Wish List  **Slide**  Circles – Discovering & Disclosing | 2 min  2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  As we move into connecting My Story to “Their Story”--my lost friend’s story, we take all that we learned during our “ABIDING” session with us. These build on each other. So, let’s remind each other of what we’ve been learning.  Would a few of you stand and share what is resonating from the last hour? What’s really sticking with you?  *Facilitator interact with attendees for 1 min.*  Thanks.  When we talk about discovering the stories, we want you to notice how curious you are. Think of an archaeologist entering a sacred dig site. As you build authentic Christ sharing relationships, you are entering sacred places like and archeologist. You partner with Jesus and excavate, curious about what might be in the story of your friend. You don’t assume that you know what’s underground, instead, you are curious and expectant.  As you discover the stories of your lost friends, you’ll notice places where your story and God’s Story connect to theirs. The danger here is we can rush to share our stories. Abiding in Christ will help me slow down and pay deeper attention to THEIR story. My story can wait when God is at work.  Right now, take a moment and list at least two people in your life who don’t know Jesus. These are people you wish knew the love of Jesus like you do. You see a space for this on your handout called “Wish List”. Make at least one of them a student from your ministry and one of them someone from your personal life. (Coworker, family, neighbor, friend). Feel free to write more than 2, but get at least 2 on your page…    *Pause for about 30 seconds.*  As we move through this session, I want you to keep these names forefront in your mind.  In fact, take a moment right now and on your own pray for the people you wrote down.  I think two words are key to discovering and disclosing; and really, they sum up 3Story®. Those words are:  LOVE  LISTEN  **Facilitator Says:**  As these 2 circles connect, we focus on discovering the stories of others by loving and listening. |
| **Slide**  John 15:12  This is my command, that you love one another as I have loved you.  **Learning Activity**  This learning activity, with grapes, is light-hearted but makes a point about real love being the fruit of abiding, so have fun with it but don’t lose your point. It helps if you can ask a friend in the audience to be your “volunteer”. Make sure you practice this one so you can move through the examples of real love vs. forced love and random love.  The grape exercise should take only about 3 minutes.  **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 10 min  5 min for Grape demo and 5 min for ministry leader | **Facilitator Says:**  Out of an ongoing, daily, abiding relationship, flows the ability to love others well.    In John 12, Jesus gives us the commandment to “love one another as I have loved you.” He is literally calling us to love always. But if we aren’t abiding our love can end up being:  forced or random or not very attractive to the world.  **Facilitator Does:**  *GRAPE EXERCISE Use a bountiful bunch of large grapes to demonstrate “fruit”. Explain that we all want our love to be fruitful. But sometimes we try to use our fruit in not-so-loving-ways. Force “Love” by stuffing an attendee’s mouth with grapes.*  **Facilitator Says:**  For example, I’ve asked (student’s name) to join me to demonstrate. You like grapes (name), right? I can tell you do. So, let me just give some and some more and some more. You feel loved, right? As I stuff these in our mouth?” (To the audience) Real love is not forced. It’s not about me and my agenda and making sure the other person gets all the information stuffed into them…people don’t feel loved when we behave like that.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Say Thanks and dismiss volunteer.*  *Now demonstrate “random love” by tossing grapes at students from a distance, not really getting close enough to them to even know their names or stories.*  **Facilitator Says:**  When we “bless people” by loving them from a distance or intermittently, it can feel, to them, like we are attacking them with “love”. As silly as it is for me to be throwing grapes at people, it’s pretty silly to be talking about deep, life changing decisions outside of a real, authentic relationship. People don’t really feel loved when we do that.  That’s not what REAL LOVE looks like.  Love apart from Jesus isn’t real love and fruit apart from the vine is bad fruit.  **It’s hard to love.**  **I don’t think abiding makes it easy to love but I do think it makes it possible.**  To make this practical I've asked a couple leaders to answer the question, “What does real love, the kind that comes from abiding, what does that love look like in your ministry context?”  So I'll invite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to join me on stage and you can hear their perspectives.  Facilitator, take a moment to introduce guests.  Then ask,  “What does real love look like in a very practical way when we think about (for example, incarcerated students or kids in the system or kids who have experienced trauma? What does real love look like?)  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offers 3-4 bullet point responses.*  Thanks.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you’re an Executive Leader—so you lead a chapter and a board. You lead in donor appointments. What does “real love” look like in your leadership context?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responds with 3-4 bullet points.  Before you go, would you each be able to give a practical example of the “random or forced love” I talked about with the grape exercise?  Both answer.  Thanks! (They return to seats)  Now your turn.  Consider yourself at a weekly meeting with students.  What does lightweight love, or love at a distance look like?  How might we create a culture that abides—so that real love pours out of us?  **Facilitator Says:**  When we abide, we grow in awareness of God’s absolute DELIGHT in us.  Do you know that love intimately? Or does it seem a distant truth?  How would your life look if you lived with a constant, acute awareness of God’s immense love for you?  **Facilitator Does:**  *Pause for just a moment to really let people consider those questions. Then, simply, and briefly ask God to make us aware of His love again*. |
| **Slide**  3Story® Holder  *This class learning activity takes some time to set up, read through all the instructions so you can lead it clearly.*  **Slide**  Jesus Encounters People  (Slide Builds to reveal the things we learn from Jesus’ example)  **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 15 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s look at a Jesus’ encounter when he promises living water.  John 4:1-42.  **Facilitator Does:**  This is an opportunity for you, the Facilitator, to lead the class in a “3Story® Experience”. This is an “Imaginative Bible Reading” in which students place themselves in the Bible scene and pay attention to how they feel, what they experience as they live inside God’s story.   1. Break the audience into groups, each representing a specific role in the biblical interaction.   The woman at the well  The Disciples  The towns people   1. Before reading the passage, explain to the groups that as they listen they should try to place themselves INSIDE OF GOD’S Story (this is a practice for how we can enter into God’s story). As they hear the story, they should imagine what they are thinking, feeling and how they are reacting to the tone of the setting and encounter. 2. After reading through the scripture, ask the groups to respond from the perspective in which they listened to the story. Ask these types of questions of each:   What are you noticing about Jesus?  What are you feeling?  What questions come to your mind?  How is this encounter impacting you? What is the result of the interaction for you (in this people group)?  This is a long passage, so ask 4 people to stand up and read 10 verses out loud at a time.  **Facilitator Asks:**  What do we learn about loving people in this encounter Jesus has with the woman?  **Facilitator Does:**  *Pause and invite responses from audience. After a few audience responses, highlight these: (which are also in Power Point).*  • Jesus meets them where they are.  • Jesus asks discovering questions.  • Jesus tailors the telling of God’s Story to the individual and the situation.  • Jesus speaks the truth in love.  • Jesus gives hope (Living Water)  What is the result of this encounter in this woman’s life?  One of the most powerful ways we can love others is by listening. People want to be heard, especially kids who live in a noisy culture that often drowns them out. We said discovering their story is key in this connection. Listening is key in discovering.  We listen to discover their story because it is an act of love and I can’t help them see God’s love until they see his love in me.  And we’ve all known people who *seem* to be listening—but then they use what we have said to make their point. That’s like bait and switch and NOT like love. True curiosity comes from people who are abiding—they become curious about how God is drawing others toward Himself. It’s like they are archeologists excavating for treasures in the stories of people (which is different from people who listen just long enough to present their agendas. |
| **Slide**  Tips for Listening and Discovering  (Slide Build)  **Slide Video**  Listen  **Slide**  3Story® Holder  **Slide**  Two keys: Be Real, Talk about Jesus  **Interrupt w/ Video**  **Slide Video** Interrupted 2 Lawn chair Guy  **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 5 min includes both videos | **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s highlight some important tips for listening and discovering:  • Be present in their life.  • Be involved- share experiences, find common interests, applaud their wins, support in times of need.  • Be attentive- use their name, remember their b-day, notice when they are absent, find ways to meet needs.  • Be a good listener- ask questions without question marks and then see where the conversation goes.  [Video - “Listen”- (2.37)](https://vimeo.com/473178019) This is a variety of students telling people to listen. (password: 3Story)  Sometimes we are compelled to share our stories and we can rush to identify with the story of a friend, “Oh, I know how you feel…”  Try to avoid that. The students in this video make a good point—keep listening. Ask good questions. Wait longer for answers, there’s no rush.  Then, when it’s time, consider these:  Two keys in disclosing your story:  BE REAL- don’t “spill your guts” but reveal in authentic ways how much you need Jesus. Pretend less, let people in on your emotions, admit your needs and failures, reveal your hopes and dreams.  TALK ABOUT JESUS- naturally and early. Don’t save up the Jesus talk for a formal gospel presentation.  Video- [Interrupt 2- Lawn chair Guy](https://vimeo.com/473177791) “You need Jesus**” (1.42)** Password: 3Story |
| **Slide**  Look at your list…  (Slide Build)  **Slide**  Holy Conversations | 10 min | **Facilitator Does:**  *Slow your pace and create a space for reflection in order that audience really considers the following questions.*  **Facilitator Says:**  Look again at the list of two people.   * What have you learned about them by listening? * How well have you loved? * How well have you listened? * What would you like to learn about them still? * What is one thing you can do this week while you are here at Institute that will convey you love them and will help you discover more of their story?   I’d like to draw your attention to a handout in your binder “Holy Conversations”.  Take a minute to read that now.  Would you commit to completing that assignment with one of the folks on your wish list?  If you have your phone with you now…you might shoot a text off to one of the people on your list just to. Tell them you are thinking of them and want to connect when you get home.  Share your plan with one other person and pray for each other. |
| **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 1 min | **Facilitator Does:**  Wrap up this time by praying and asking God to make us better at listening to HIM and to the people around us. |

**Leader’s Script – Session 3**

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|  | **60 min** | **3Story® Invite+Practice** |
| **Section Notes** | **Activity Time** | **Content**  *Facilitator: You will conclude this section with an assignment. All attendees will practice an inviting conversation. We’ve created a page with instructions for triads practicing. Make sure you have a copy and are ready to guide people toward that practice.* |
| **Slide Video**  Swimmer  **Slide**  3Story® Holder  **Slide**  Table Discussion  What does this have to do with evangelism?  In what ways are you like the lifeguard?  How can we guard against falling into the attitudes of the lifeguard? | 13 min  6 for video, 6 for table discuss 1 min for feedback | **Facilitator Does:** Begin session with [Swimmer Video](https://vimeo.com/473178438) (password: 3Story. Approximately 6 min)  *No introduction necessary, just use video to draw group’s focus back in following short break. When video is over, instruct table groups to take 5 minutes to answer the questions on the slide.*  *Instruct tables to answer the questions on the Power Point following the Swimmer Video.*   * What does this have to do with evangelism? * In what ways are you like the lifeguard? * How can we guard against falling into the attitudes of the lifeguard?   **Facilitator Says:**  Share a couple responses from your tables—how CAN we guard against this type of attitude? |
| **Slide**  Circles  **Slide**  Doorway Definition  **Slide**  3Story® Holder  **Slide**  What was your Doorway?  **Slide**  Reflect  What doorways might God be using?  What Gospel stories connect to those doorways?  **Interrupt w/ Video**  **Slide Video**  Interrupted 4 *video will not automatically start, select play in slide*  **Slide**  3Story® Holder | 10 min | **Facilitator Says:**  As me move toward the conclusion of our 3Story® Training we focus on the connection between Their Story and God’s Story.  We use the word INVITE or INVITING to describe this connection.  We want to cultivate a pattern of inviting. As we said before, we don’t “save up the Jesus talk for a “big reveal” or for YFC CAMP and then invite. Instead, we create patterns of inviting by always including invitations to respond in our conversations. Invitations can sound like,  How does that sit with you?  What are your thoughts about what I shared?  See, I just invited you to respond.  If I create this pattern, when I talk with you about Jesus, it feels natural to ask something like, “What do you think about this Jesus story?” or, “What’s your response to this truth about God?”  Like our lifeguard friend, it doesn’t do a lot of good if we remember fondly when we first learned to swim but don’t ever help others learn.  That would be just like being in an abiding relationship with Jesus and loving and listening to our friends well BUT never connecting them to God’s Story.  So how do we do that? How do we connect the stories of friends with God’s story?  The best way is through doorways. People respond to Jesus for different reasons. These reasons flow out of a person’s needs. Doorways are simply entry points for the Holy Spirit to show a person their need for God and his ability to meet that need. My doorway at 6 was love; greater love than I already knew from my family.  Think for a minute about your doorway—when you first responded to the love of Jesus, what need was God addressing?  Would a few of you respond—use your loud voice-- and finish this sentence:  My doorway was…  *Allow 4-6 responses*  As we discover our friends’ story, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us make connections between possible doorways and the truth that we know in God’s Story. The need for a father, the search for identity, fear of death, pain of rejection, need for purpose, desire for love…. can all be found in God’s Story.  **Facilitator Says:**  As you consider your doorway, try to think of the nature or theme around that doorway; loneliness, grief, celebration. Then, try to think of bible stories that have a similar theme. Loneliness for example, could tie to Jesus being left alone during his darkest hour in the garden of Gethsemane. Celebration of friendship could tie to images of disciples working together with Jesus, having meals together. Feeling abandoned or out-cast can tie to Zac or the woman at the well, etc.  Take a few seconds to write down Bible stories that tie your doorway to the Gospel.  Now consider your Wishlist.  What doorways might God be using to draw that friend closer to His story?  As you consider the possible doorway, can you think of any Gospel stories that connect?    **Facilitator Does:**  *After a minute, interrupt this reflective activity with “Interrupt 4” which is Lawn chair Guy talking about how he remembers Simpson’s episodes more than he remembers Bible Stories.*  Video-Interrupt with [Interrupt 4- “Lawn chair Guys reflects on Simpsons vs. Bible”](https://vimeo.com/487296923) (1.40) (password: 3Story) |
| **Group Activity**  **Slide**  Stand up…  **Slide**  Relationship  **Slide**  Resist  **Slide**  Restore  **Slide**  Respond  **Slide**  Remain  **Slide**  1Peter 3:15 | 12 min | **Facilitator Says:**  We must be deeply rooted in God’s Story so we can help our friends see how they relate to God and how God relates to them. We can’t accurately tell it if we don’t know it!  In Authentic, Christ-sharing relationships, we try to unpack these Gospel truths over time, always inviting people to respond, always asking questions, always giving time to digest information and then re-enter conversations. We don’t have to hurry to make a point. But when we are abiding in Jesus, we can naturally talk about him, his story and how his story relates to the stories of our friends.  Our urgency is toward the Father, as we pray and listen for the invitations, HE provides for us to speak His truth. It is different from that old urgency, “Do you know where you’re going if you get hit by a bus on the way home?” It is God’s kindness that draws people to repentance, not scare tactics.  But what does someone need to **know** to be saved?  **Facilitator Says:**  Stand up and find two people. Then answer the question: What does someone need to know to be saved?  **Audience Does:**  Takes 2-3 minutes to come up with ideas that people assume one must know in order to be saved.  **Facilitator Says:**  (interrupt groups of people talking)  It’s a great discussion because we make assumptions that we have to dump a lot of info for people to make a decision. And we get nervous about forgetting a passage or saying something right…or holding someone’s attention so we can make the point.  We’d like to suggest that there are A LOT of Gospel truths. We have summarized them in 5 R-letter themes. People in relational ministry should be naturally talking about these topics all the time.  The first “R” is:  **God loves us and created us for *Relationship* with Him.** Romans 5:8 ***Romans 5:7-8(ESV)*** ***7****For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—****8****but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*  **Facilitator Asks:**  Name some other stories that show Jesus pursuing a relationship with someone. (Zacchaeus, Woman at the Well, The Disciple, God in Garden of Eden.) **We *Resist* relationship with God. Romans 3:23** ***Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)*** ***22****We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*  ***23****For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.****24****Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*  Name some stories where we see people resisting relationship with God. (rich young ruler). You might also be able to think of some personal stories about how you resist God, even now that you follow Him. **Jesus Christ lived, died and rose to *Restore* our intended relationship with God.** I Peter 3:18. *18Christ suffered[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30403a)*] for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30403b)] Name some stories that illustrate being restored to God. (woman at the well)  **Our positive *Response* to Jesus begins our relationship with God.**  John 1:12  ***12****But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.*  Name some stories where we see people responding positively to God. (Paul, Woman at well running back to village, disciples leaving nets.)  **Jesus promises he will *Remain* with us through the Holy Spirit.**  We don’t live apart from Him, we live with Him. First, He is among us and then, as we respond to Him, He lives IN us.  “If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. John 14:15-17 New Living Translation (NLT)  There is so much of God’s story to share with our lost friends. Sometimes, these foundational biblical truths get buried in all of the other parts of life—the crisis, the busy, the fun. Our purpose in authentic relationships is to share these truths regularly; making Jesus the hero. Discerning doorways is an art.  It’s uncovering needs as we discover our friend’s story and connecting those needs to these truths. And we always do this with gentleness and respect, just as we see in scripture.  1 Peter 3:15  “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” |
| **Slide**  Pulling It All Together  **Slide**  Table Questions | 10 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Pause for a moment and think of a time you’ve been in a 3Story® relationship. Maybe it’s with one of the people on your wish list.  As you’ve considered possible doorways God might be using,  do any of the 5 R’s apply to a doorway you noticed?    In groups (3 or 4) at your tables, answer questions on the screen:   * Talk about a 3Story® relationship you are in with a lost person and try to identify a doorway in their story. * Talk about how conversations with this person go. Do you talk most? Does he or she talk most? How well do you listen? * Do you ever resist talking about Jesus? What’s going on inside you that causes that resistance? * When you speak, how do you know what the person is thinking as they listen? * What might you do differently based on 3Story®?   **Audience Does:**  Discusses questions at tables.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Watch time, give appropriate amount for table discussion and then a 1-minute warning.*  **Facilitator Says:**  When we abide, the HOLY SPIRIT guides us through these relationships and He sets us up to INVITE, always invite.  Pause for a moment and reflect on your wish list.  How has the Holy Spirit already nudged you in this relationship with a lost friend or student? |
| **Slide**  3Story® Practice-Invite  Print and cut these cards so that triads of people may leave the room and still follow instructions. | 5 min to explain then prepare to dismiss | **Facilitator Does:**  *Facilitator, take 5 minutes to explain this practice. They will move to their breakout rooms and then into their small groups and then into triads. They will practice in that space. Just take a moment to set up what they will do when they head to breakouts.*  **Facilitator Says:**  Please don't panic at the next exercise. We'd like you to practice an inviting conversation. You'll be in groups of 3. You’ll give your partners a little context about one of the people on your wish list and then imagine that you are in a conversation with that person.  One of your partners will play the role of that person and you'll have the opportunity to practice helping that person understand one of the “5R’s” and inviting that person to respond to Jesus. After each person takes a turn, you and your partners will answer the questions on your handout.  *The following content is printed on a page in binder*  *also be a PP slide*  **Create a triad:**  Person 1: YFC Leader inviting response to Jesus.  Person 2: Lost friend or student  Person 3: Is the time keeper/helper, gently giving a “wrap up warning” at 3 minutes.    **Create context:** You two have a relationship and have been meeting together over the last six months. Take a minute to give your partners a little context about the relationship, tell your partner who he/she is for this role play. Share the gospel with the student by discovering their doorway and talking about Jesus via that doorway. Remember the 5 Rs. Make sure to include an invitation to respond as part of your practice.  1 minute for context, 3-4 minutes to share and invite. Pause to reflect and answer the questions below for 5 minutes. Then trade places and the next person takes a turn.  **Reflect:**  1. What did you notice about yourself as the Inviter?  2. Do you notice resistance or enthusiasm as you invite others toward Jesus?  3. Affirm what went well and share suggestions if needed.  **Facilitator Says:**  You will do this practice in your breakout rooms within your small groups. You already have those groups—you met last night. So, you get a break, you move to your breakout room, find your small group.  Divide into triads. Find a space where the 3 of you can practice.  Bring the instructions. |
| **Slide**  3Story® is a way of life… | 1 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s conclude our time with this:  Stand and read this with me…  3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be Good News while telling stories of THE Good News.  You have a 20 minute passing break and then circle up in small groups as you enter your BO room. See you later! |



**3Story® Narrative**

3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news as they share stories of The Good News. In YFC, 3Story® is the phrase we use to describe how we live in relationship with God and others. Three circles represent these stories:Shape

Description automatically generated God’s story, my own story, and the stories of young people. When the circles overlap, it means friendship is growing, trust is building, transformation is happening.

The more the circles overlap, the deeper the relationships.

3Story® helps people who love Jesus stay tightly connected to Him, becoming good news as they talk about Jesus, who *is* The Good News. We want to be people who love like Jesus loves us, who serve as Jesus serves and who are consistently drawing near to God for the sake of young people. As we pursue 11-19 year olds who are walking through pivotal story-shaping moments, we represent Jesus who is steady and trustworthy so that young people feel seen, heard, and valued.

We aspire to be Christ-centered leaders who are *followers of Christ* first, being *formed into his likeness* by the power of the Holy Spirit for *God's Kingdom purposes every day*.

This is YFC’s Leader Formation purpose, and 3Story® is a way of life that defines how we do this.

*Leaders who are “followers first”,* abide in Christ. As we abide, the Holy Spirit brings inner-life transformation. This is the heart of 3Story® relational ministry.

*Leaders who are “being transformed into His likeness”:*

* notice how He stayed connected to the Father. We stay connected to the Father.
* notice how Jesus loved people. We intentionally follow His example.
* notice how He moved toward people. We move toward people with gentleness and respect.

*Leaders who pursue “God's Kingdom purposes every day”:*

* recognize Holy Spirit transformation is not just for me. God has a purpose and invites me to align with Him.
* recognize that abiding (being with the Father) flows into action, so my purpose is always tied to Jesus’ purpose.

3STORY® AS A LIFESTYLE

When we choose to live a 3Story® life, we are committing to practices that keep the three circles connected. God-inspired and empowered life transformation happens when the circles overlap so we invest time, energy and resources to the connecting points. Here’s how it looks:

3STORY® CONNECTIONS *ABIDE, DISCOVER, INVITE*

1. **The connection between God’s Story and My Story is captured in the word ABIDE.** Jesus instructs us: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind.” Matthew 22:37.*

In John 15 Jesus paints a picture for his followers of remaining in Him as branches remain connected to a vine. 3Story® elevates abiding and equips leaders with resources and training in abiding practices.

1. **The connection between My Story and Their Story is captured in the word DISCOVER.** We love others by listening for the story under the story, helping young people discover God at work drawing them to Him. Jesus instructs us: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:39*

3Story® trains people to become self-aware, to listen deeply, to ask reflective questions and to make connections between what is happening in peoples’ stories and what God is doing to draw them to Himself.

1. **The connection between Their Story and God’s Story is captured in the word INVITE.** We introduce our friend Jesus to our friends who don’t yet know him. God is already pursuing them; He invites us to join in the journey with our friend. The Apostle Paul said: *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and was raised.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15*

3Story® equips people to unfold biblical Good News in the context of authentic, Christ-sharing relationships. Different from “delivering a Gospel presentation” or “sharing our testimonies”, 3Story® living cultivates relationships in which invitations to follow Jesus are woven into lasting, trusting friendships. Questions like, “How do you think Jesus feels about you and your situation?” and “There’s a story in the Bible that connects to yours—can I tell you that story?” are considered *beginning invitations* and create a natural pathway to bigger invitations like, “Would you consider trusting Jesus?”

3STORY® RESOURCES

There is much to be explored in 3Story®, which is why we care so much about making excellent training and resources available.

* NLT Bible with 3Story® vignettes.
* 3Story® Adult Training Curriculum Available on YFC’s Trailhead coming 2022
* 3Story® Adult Training Curriculum for in-person trainings of 20+
* 90-minute 3Story® Experience created to help people experience 3Story® before training.

LEARN MORE

[training@yfc.net](mailto:training@yfc.net) For 3Story® and 3Story® Teams Recourses.



**Relational Ministry Defined**

**YFC leaders trust God to transform lives through authentic, Christ-sharing relationships where 3Story® communities of grace and truth join Jesus in his ministry of reconciliation.**

– relational ministry definition

**EXPANDED**

**Relational Ministry** happens everywhere we express 3Story®—where doing flows from being. *My Story* is connected to *God’s Story* by **abiding** in Christ. From the depth of my relationship with God, **loving** friendships form, and *My Story* connects to *Their Story*. Authentic relationships provide the context for our **inviting** them to join us as followers of Jesus, and we see the Holy Spirit connect *Their Story* to *God’s Story*.

**Relational Ministry** is identifiable through “authentic, Christ-sharing relationships” where Jesus is presented by example and with words.

* A relationship begins with a conversation whereby YFC leaders learn the name of a young person.
* As the conversational relationship grows, YFC leaders start to discover each young person’s unique story.
* Against the backdrop of this loving discovery process, YFC leaders learn whether a young person has trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
* YFC leaders then introduce Jesus Christ as a conversational focal point in this relationship that is inclusive of shared life experiences. *This is when we say we have established an authentic, Christ-sharing relationship.*
* Within the context of an authentic, Christ-sharing relationship a young person can make a well-informed decision to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.
* Authentic, Christ-sharing relationships position YFC leaders to naturally transition into deeper discipleship with young people.
* By God’s grace, YFC leaders empower these young people to practice their own authentic, Christ-sharing relationships.

**Relational Ministry** is centered in the person, work and teachings of Jesus Christ.   
Through his sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, he alone provides new life characterized by reconciliation with God, neighbor and self. The power of sin over us—with its destruction, brokenness and chaos—has been defeated!

**Relational Ministry** ensures we are fully aligned participants in God's Kingdom by drawing upon its three-stranded Biblical DNA: **grace and truth, 3Story community,** and the **ministry of reconciliation**.

**Grace and Truth**

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

“Because we loved you, it was a joy to us to give you not only the Gospel of God but our very hearts—so dear did you become to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Relational ministry as modeled by Jesus is full of both grace and truth.

* Lifting up Jesus as the way, truth, and life is central to our mission.
* Grace without truth can be misleading.
* Truth without grace can be destructive.
* Grace and truth, together expressed under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is both life-giving and transformational.
* Our passion is to unclutter the gospel and give young people an opportunity to make an informed decision to follow Jesus.
* Our commitment includes loving young people without conditions as an expression of the free gift of grace that we too have experienced.
* Each of the 5 Essentials gives us the opportunity to apply grace and truth.

**3Story® in Community**

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4

***3Story® communities seek first to be loving encouragers who trust God together   
while spurring one another on in authentic, Christ sharing relationships.***

Relational ministry occurs best in the context of a body of believers on mission together with prayer, accountability, support, and expression of gifts.

* Prayer is a priority for the individual leader, the ministry team, the local churches, and the supportive community.
* Prayer aligns us with the purposes of God and strengthens our obedience to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
* Ministry teams are most fruitful when they are diverse, unified, and include indigenous leaders.
* Ministry teams are most effective when they are equipped to wisely engage young people in ways that strengthen and empower them.
* When outreach flows as a part of *Our Story* we embody “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)
* Our passion as a movement is to multiply fruitful and sustainable Ministry Sites across the nation and around the world.
* Our commitment is to work “together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.”
* Each of the 5 Essentials gives shape to thriving 3Story communities.

**Ministry of Reconciliation**

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Relational ministry holds that reconciliation with God is necessary to bring healing among individuals, families, campuses, communities, and unique populations of 11-19 year olds.

* Our commitment is to a “ministry of reconciliation”, on campuses and in juvenile halls… in wide open spaces and on congested street corners… to the outcasts, the vulnerable, the isolated, the terrified.
* Developing and maintaining a healthy Kingdom Culture that reflects ethnic, linguistic, gender, racial, and cultural diversity is a critical value of Youth for Christ.
* Jesus touched the need of people in practical, physical ways as an expression of his identity as fully God and fully human therefore we recognize and embrace the practical applications of our mission for spiritual transformation.
* Our passion is to minister in the name of Jesus. We are liberated by his forgiveness and propelled by His love, to continually declare mercy and truth.
* Collaboration is our intentional effort to work alongside other organizations to serve young people, their families, and their communities.
* Each of the 5 Essentials gives YFC structure to the ministry of reconciliation.