**3STORY® 90-MINUTE EXPERIENCE**

**Leader’s Guide and Script**

*Nina Edwards, Byron Emmert*

This learning experience is designed to lead participants in experiences of abiding in God and discovering how His redemptive story includes all of us, today.

*Note: This is NOT complete 3Story® Training and is best used as an introduction and motivator toward 3Story® Training.*

**PURPOSE**

This interactive experience will result in:

* A basic understanding of 3Story® as a “way of life”, rather than a compartmentalized philosophy of evangelism.
* A desire to live in an abiding relationship with Christ.
* Participants practicing 3Story® at introductory level.
* A motivation to learn more about living 3Story® (including sharing God’s story and inviting people to follow Jesus).
* Participation in small groups for 4 weeks - taking a deeper dive into Abiding, Discovering, Disclosing and Inviting.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

* Adults & Students
* Facilitator – this person can lead without being an experienced or skilled teacher, because the material and Leader’s Guide will equip him or her to do so.

**CONTENT BACKGROUND:**

* Concepts are taken from 3Story® Training
* Emphasis is on the opportunity that Christ followers have to be part of God’s Story through Abiding and fulfilling the Greatest Commandment & the Great Commission
* Key Scriptures: Matthew 22:34-40; 28:16; John 15:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:13-15

**SUPPLIES/PROPS:**

* God’s Story – 3Story® Bible (NLT version)
* Handouts (see pg. 12/13 of this document)
* Fresh Grapes (edible)
* White board or writing easel with paper
* One of the following options: Magicians Rings, 3 Exercise Balls, 3 Hula Hoops

**TEACHING OBJECTIVE:**

Every participant can be part of God’s Kingdom-Building Story by living out Christ’s commandments though an abiding relationship with Him:

1. Love God (Matthew 22:34-40; John 15:9-11)
2. Love Others (Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 28:16)
3. Love Always (John 15:12-13)

**90-Minute Experience**

Introduction

Love God

Love Others

Love Always

Closing

**Teaching Script 3Story® Experience**

**Youth For Christ/USA**

**Created by: Nina Edwards & Byron Emmert**

**Leader’s Script**

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|  | **30 min** | **INTRODUCTION** |
| **Section Goal &**  **Supplies** | **Activity Time** | **Teaching Script** |
| Introduction | 5 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!  Get in 3’s right now and take about 15 seconds to quickly share your favorite Bible story and why?  *After 1 minute in 3’s, leader takes 2 minutes and gets some sample answers from the small groups for the whole group to hear.*  One of the great stories from Jesus’ life is when he uses the illustration of the Vine and the Branches in John 15. |
|  | 3 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Let’s take a look at John 15:7-11 together.  **Facilitator Does:**  Ask someone to read it aloud.  **Facilitator Says:**  What do we learn about God’s love for us from this passage?  *Let audience respond.*  *Focus on the reminder to us that God has first loved us and in doing so, gives us all we need to remain in that love.* |
| Learning Activity | 10 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Get in small group of 3’s again and share a brief story or example (2 minutes each) of how you have seen, known or experienced God’s love in the past 24 hours.  *(Ask for 2 people to share with whole group, 2 minutes max each).* |
| Our Learning Goal | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  We’ve been sharing personal stories about experiencing God’s love for us. When we do this, we remember, at a deeper level, how deep for each of us His love really is. How often to you allow yourself to really sink into that truth, that He really, REALLY loves you? And what happens when you do?  Something shifts.  We begin to love HIM more, at deeper levels. And then, hopefully, we are  motivated to love others and to tell THEM about this great love and all that is included in the Good News of Christ.  Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 together  14For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.  That leads us to our goal for our experience today – We can be part of God’s Kingdom-Building Story! How? We’re going to find out that the key is to live out Christ’s commandments for building God’s Kingdom. We’ve heard them before but *are we obeying them*? We’re going to discover that we can when we continually live in an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ because He is the Vine and we are the branches. |
| 3Story® Overview & Learning Activity  **Choose One:**  \*3 Exercise Balls  \*Magicians’ rings  \*Hula Hoops | 10 min | **Facilitator Says:**  3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Christ to be good news while telling stories of The Good News.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Refer to the handout and have everyone draw the circles…*  *Facilitator draw the circles on the board*    3Story® is not a method or a tool, but it’s a way to live that is based on understanding how three stories connect.  *Facilitator, refer to each circle as you write in “God’s Story, My Story, and Their Story”.*  These three circles represent three stories. God’s Story—all that we have in the Bible as well as His on-going work through the Holy Spirit in our lives.  My Story, at least, all that I know of it to this point.  And Their Story—this is the circle that we use to represent the other people in our lives who do not yet know that life-changing love of God.  The more the three circles 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 – both on earth and forever.  Let’s talk about this with some help from 3 volunteers…  **Note to facilitator:**  *The following object lesson requires 3 volunteers and 3 large hula hoops (or magicians circles or the large exercise balls).*  *One volunteer stands on one side of the room while the other stands opposite and a third volunteer stands in the front of the room, each holding their hula hoop in front of them or on them.*  *The 3 hula hoops represent the three circles in 3Story®.*    *This object lesson takes between 3-5 minutes.*  *The audience it's meant to participate by making suggestions about how to connect the “MY STORY” circle with the “THEIR STORY” circle.*    *Usually, audiences suggest that one person moves closer to the other person and builds relationship with them. That's a great picture of authentic, Christ-sharing relationship! Feel free to point that out.*  *However, we really want to elevate that 3Story® abiding teaches us that our first and most important step is toward Christ.*  *Hopefully an audience member will suggest that Volunteer 2 move closer to God and then together they move toward Volunteer 3.*    *As facilitator, you should be prepared to manage the responses from the audience and direct the circles to move as the audience suggests.*  *And if the audience gets it right immediately and connects the MY STORY circle with the GOD’S STORY circle first, you can cheer them on and then talk about what some of the other options might have been.*  **Facilitator Says:**  I have asked these three volunteers to help us illustrate how the circles connect.  This hula hoop that Vol #1 holds represents the circle of GOD’S STORY. Will you (volunteer #1, standing as God) stand here, on the stage and hold your hula hoop representing GOD’S STORY.  Volunteer 2 represents MY STORY and Volunteer 3 represents that person we love who does not yet know Jesus. They will stand on opposite sides of the room.  Now, audience, what suggestions do you have for Volunteer 2 that will help him/her reach Volunteer 3? Go ahead and give us some suggestions and our volunteers will follow your lead…  *Let audience make several suggestions.*  *As soon as a participant suggests that volunteer to move closer to God's story and then take God's story toward volunteer 3, you can conclude the exercise and give the volunteers a hand.*  Then as you conclude this exercise make this point  **Facilitator Says:**  If I want my friend to know and love Jesus, my first and most important step is toward God. Write that down. |
|  | **8 min** | **LOVE GOD** |
|  | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  The first commandment we need to obey if we’re going to be part of God’s Kingdom Building Story is to LOVE GOD.  *Have someone read Matthew 22:34-40*  The greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart. And we saw in John 15 that we can love him only because he first loved us. |

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| Learning Activity  **Need:**  Instrumental music playing during solo time is optional. | 6 min | **Facilitator Says:**  We’re going to spend a little solo time with God. Close your eyes and listen as I *(or someone you ask)* read John 15:9-11. Then take several minutes to write a note to God in response to Christ’s words in this part of God’s Story…    9As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.  *Facilitator, give them 5 minutes and close this by praying for them.* |
|  | **30 min** | **LOVE OTHERS** |
| Bible Discovery Interactive Experience  **Need:**  GOD’s STORY - 3Story® Bible | 25 min | **Facilitator Does:**  *Draw the circles on the board and label them God’s Story, Jesus’ Story, the Woman’s story. No explanation for now, just get it up in front of the audience.*  **Facilitator Says:**  The second commandment we need to obey if we’re going to be part of God’s Kingdom-Building Story is to LOVE OTHERS.  I’m going to read a part of a vignette you can find in the 3Story® NLT Bible. Listen…  *Read the first 2 paragraphs out of the John 4 vignette in the 3Story® Bible titled “Unconditional Love”. Pg. 1179 Stop at “Please give me a drink…”)*  *After you finish reading ask for a few individual responses about what stood out for them, what caught their attention, what was new for them in this story.*  *Now split the group into five smaller groups and assign a character to each.*  **Facilitator Says:**  We are going to step deeper into this story by paying attention through the experience of those who were present. I’m going to divide you into groups and ask you to experience the story through:   * The woman (I need one person who is willing to talk, responding to questions) * Jesus (one person who is willing to talk) * The disciples (count out 12 people and ask them to think about what they know about particular disciples and keep that in mind as they represent them) * The townspeople (the woman runs to them in the end) (this is all the audience that is left)   *Ask the groups to assume the identity of their character as they listen to the whole passage, imagining what their “character” would have felt/thought.*  Read John 4:1-42 or ask for 4 volunteers to read about 10 verses each.  **Facilitator Says:**  Based on this story and what you know about the participants from other stories, what would they be feeling?  Who are they?  What can we imagine about them?  *Ask the group to answer your questions in character. They can also respond to the answers from the other groups but work to stay true to their character.*  *Depending on time and size of your group and depth of the discussion, you will need to pick and choose the questions you pose.*  **To Jesus and woman:**  Why are you here?  How do you feel about being in this place?  **To the woman:**  Why would you question Jesus as you did?  Why would you listen to him?  How do you feel when you discover Jesus already knows about your lifestyle?  What does being known do to you?  **To Jesus:**  Why bother with this woman’s world?  Why did you tell the woman to call her husband if you already know about her life?  Why reveal that you are the Messiah to a lowly Samaritan woman with a shameful lifestyle?  **To the woman:**  What did Jesus say that changed you?  Why rush to tell others?  **To the disciples group:**  What is your response when you see who Jesus is talking to?  Why do you respond this way?  Why are you more concerned with Jesus eating than with the woman he is talking to?  What do you imagine your response might have been after Jesus’ teaching about the fields being white for harvest?  What does “reap that for which you did not labor” mean?  **To the Townspeople:**  Why would you listen to this woman who is urging you to come and see the man she met?  Why did you invite Jesus to stay with you?  What do you imagine asking Jesus during those two days?  Why believe him?  **To the Woman:**  How do you feel when the townspeople listen to you and invite Jesus to stay?  What do you imagine it did in your own life when you realized others believed because of you connecting them to Jesus?  *After the experience is over, refer back to the circles on the board. With a quick look at how the stories connect.*  **Facilitator Does:**  *Ask the audience to shout out answers to the connecting points. ”What connects God’s Story and Jesus’ Story?”*  *Remember, we are looking at it from the point of view of Jesus Story being the “My Story” part and seeing how he is connected to God’s Story because he is about His Father’s work, he diverted to the well to have this encounter.*  *Help the audience see The Jesus Story connections to The Woman’s Story through water and great questions. The connection of The Woman’s Story to God’s Story comes through the comments on the promise of living water that will prevent her from ever thirsting again.*  *(If time permits, do the same with the woman in the “My Story” circle and the townspeople in the “Their Story” circle. Again, ask for quick answers on connecting points. You could also put the disciples in the “My Story” circle and talk about what they learned in watching this encounter.)*  **Read:** *Wrap up the whole discussion on John 4 by reading “Carrie’s story” from the John 4 vignette called “Unconditional Love” in the NLT 3Story® Bible. You will find this at the end of the vignette on pages 1179-1180. This helps to keep lost kids in the forefront of the audience’s thinking and helps them see the 3Story® Bible as a great resource.*  “Carrie also lived in quiet shame…” |
|  | 1 min | **Facilitator Says:**  One of the ways we love God is by loving others.  Remember the greatest commandment “Love the Lord your God with all your heart andwith all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments are the whole of who God created us to be.  Let’s get practical. Take a moment and consider the people that God has drawn you to love. |
| Learning Activity  **Need:** Soft music playing | 2 min | **Facilitator Does:**  Ask participants to create a wish list with three names of people they want to see come to know Jesus. |
|  | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  Now look at those names you wrote down. How are you doing at loving them? How do they know you love them?  In what ways might God be calling you to love them even more? |
|  | **15 min** | **LOVE ALWAYS** |
|  | 2 min | **Facilitator Says:**  The third commandment we need to obey if we’re going to be part of God’s Kingdom-Building Story is to LOVE ALWAYS.  **Facilitator Does:**  *Ask someone to read John 15:12-13 aloud.*  **Facilitator Says:**  So, how do we keep loving always? It comes back to abiding. If we aren’t abiding, we aren’t going to love as Christ loves us. John 12 is a commandment to “love one another as I have loved you.” Christ’s love for us is eternal. He is literally commanding us to Love Always. If we aren’t abiding, our love can end up being:   * Forced * Random * Not very attractive to a lost world |
| Object Lesson  \*Grapes | 5 min | **Note to Facilitator:**  *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”. It will help to 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.*  **Facilitator Does:**  *Ask for a volunteer to stand next to you*.  **Facilitator Says:**  We can’t force an abiding relationship on others. Forced love is just not attractive to the world—it doesn’t feel like good news.  **Facilitator Does:**  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 say)* 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.  Ok if you don’t want what has happened in my life than I will throw it out to others.  **Facilitator Does:**  *At this point, start pulling grapes off the vine and throwing them into the audience.*  *Say something like, “well if you don’t want it, I can still toss it to you from a distance…”*  **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.  **Facilitator Says:**  Love apart from Jesus isn’t real love and fruit apart from the vine is bad fruit. When we abide, we are aware of those opportunities God is giving us to love others and make connections. These aren’t random opportunities.  If we aren’t abiding, the fruit we offer for people to see in us is rotten. Fruit apart from the vine is bad fruit. Have you ever reached into the fridge for a bunch of grapes and there are one or two that have left the vine and they are mushy and sour? We have to stay connected if we want the fruit to be attractive to those around us.  2 Cor. 5:15 to love as Christ loves us is to love always. |
| Personal Story | 4 min | **Facilitator Does:**  *This is your opportunity to tell a real 3Story® story that centers around your journey to love always. It may be a story of great success or great failure. The point is to be real and to convey to the audience that you are in this journey as well. The more transparent you are, the more powerful this connection will be.* |
| “How Deep the Father’s Love” | 4 min | **Facilitator Does:**  *Go to* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKdbN3GiL4E*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKdbN3GiL4E) *and watch (or at least listen to) How deep the Father’s Love by Fernando Ortega*  **Facilitator Says:**  What better example do we have of loving God, loving others, and loving always?  *Recite from memory 2Corinthians 5:13-15 and pray for audience.*  14For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.  End in prayer |
|  | **3 min** | **CLOSING** |
|  | 3 min | **Facilitator Says:**  As we wrap up our time, I’d like to invite you to more on 3Story®…  **Facilitator Does:**  *Talk about future opportunities for more extensive training.*  *Talk to host if interested in discovering more about 3Story®.*  *Challenge each participant to commit to being a part of four weeks of small groups with other people in the room. (you will need to coordinate with host beforehand so you know how to present this and what the logistics are that they have worked out.)*  **Facilitator Says:**  The purpose of these small groups is to continue to discover what it means to love God, love others, and love always. This community of small group members will be on a journey together to abide more deeply and be a part of God’s Kingdom-Building Story.  We highly encourage you to join a group. |

**3STORY® EXPERIENCE HANDOUT**

3Story® is a way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news while telling stories of the good news.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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.

The first commandment we need to obey is to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John 15:9-11 reflections:

Connection between My Story and God’s Story can be summed up as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The second commandment we need to obey is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The connection between My Story and Their Story can be summed up as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

John 4:1-42 reflections:

The third commandment we need to obey is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The connection between Their Story and God’s Story can be summed up as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John 12 reflections: