

Mentor Guide: Program Week 6

The topics this week take us in two directions. Kurt Mahler comes in to train us on Bible Storying and teaches on the all-important topic of Culture, and. (You are not required to watch the videos, but here is a [link](#) if you are interested.)

Bible Storying- Kurt Mahler

Storying can be a powerful tool to use in Church Planting. Kurt gives us examples on the many aspects of storying and how to do it effectively.

Some process questions:

1. What are the benefits of using storying as a tool?
2. Why do you think storying helps to communicate cross-culturally?
3. How do you think that storying can be used in your cultural context?
4. What are the principles that will make your storying effective?

Some storying practitioners use a structured class-based approach that can be very useful in certain settings, but may not transfer to evangelism in many cultures. It is important to be aware of this because different organizations will have different understandings. We suggest that you talk through the extra handout on storying principles located at the end of this lesson to expand your view of storying.

Practice: The student should come prepared to share a story (biblical or other) that will address a relevant worldview issue in the heart of someone in their future host culture.

Culture- Kurt Mahler

Some process questions:

1. What cultural differences do you think exist between your home culture and your host culture?
2. What are some practical ways you can be “wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove” in your host culture?
3. What do you foresee as some lifestyle changes you’ll need to make in your host culture? Anything you’re excited or nervous about?

4. What stuck out to you about this teaching?
5. Talk through the handout, 10 Cultural Pitfalls. Ask which ones were surprising?
Which ones might be hard for you?

Optional Cultural Discussion for Understanding Your Host Culture:

Become a learner now for your host culture. As you are in conversation with your Team Leaders or others familiar with your location, begin now asking questions to gather an understanding of the culture and needed tools. If you are on a team, the team leader will ultimately decide what is appropriate, but it is OK to begin the learning process.

- 1) What are the areas of the culture that reflect the nature of God?
 - 2) What are some of the potential conflicts with Biblical truth do you think the culture has?
 - 3) What are some filters that you use to find out who is hungry?
 - 4) What are the first two stories you usually use for DBS?
-

Book Review: Processing Cross-cultural Servanthood

Possible Questions:

1. What insights did you learn about how to get to know your culture?
2. Which examples stood out to you?
3. Did anything in the video challenge your preconceived notions?
4. How might your definition of American serving not match your new culture?
5. How might we express superiority in an effort to serve?
6. How does our Western church's view of leadership compare to the biblical humility and a cultural approach to serving?

CAUTION: Culture should not take priority over scripture

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK: Steps that lead to the ability to serve someone....

1. **First Step--Openness:** “Openness is the ability to welcome people into your presence and make them feel safe.” Problem: Our comfort zone
 2. **Acceptance:** You can’t communicate value and esteem to them unless they feel welcomed and feel safe—**openness**.
 3. **Trust:** You can’t build trust with another person until they feel like they have been **accepted** by you.
 4. **Learning:** You can’t learn from another person until you have built trust. They won’t share unless they **trust**.
 5. **Understanding:** You can’t understand another person until you have **learned** from them and with them. Learning signals humility and willingness to identify.
 6. **Serving:** You can’t serve someone you don’t **understand**.
-

Relate—Speaking the truth in Love

Summary of the lesson

- Speaking the truth in love is seeing one another by the Spirit and calling each other forward in God. Occasionally, it can be included in confrontation or the process of conflict resolution.
- Ephesians 4:15, 29; Proverbs 27:5&6
- 90% of speaking the truth in love is building one another up by speaking what is true in the Spirit. 10% of speaking the truth in love is correction and rebuke.
- To speak the truth in love, we must take time to get God's perspective on the individual.
- Resisting the extremes of passivity and independence enable us to gain His perspective to courageously and lovingly speak the truth that is needed.
- Speaking the truth in love to one another fosters the maturing of the Body of Christ.
- When speaking the truth in love, we humbly offer our perspective rather than attempt to forcibly demand or control someone.
- Speaking = being proactive, verbal and clear.
- The truth = while humbly recognizing that we still "see in part" (1 Corinthians 13:12), we offer our truth which is not necessarily the same as God's Truth.
- In love = our attitudes and words must be loving and nurturing, prioritizing the growth and interest of the other individual.

a. How to mentor an Individual

- i. What do you think of when you hear "speaking the truth in love"?
- ii. How is this presentation different from what you have heard before about speaking the truth in love (90% positive)
- iii. Have the student explain the 90/10 principle to the mentor. What is the 90% of speaking the truth in love?
- iv. Have your experiences with speaking the truth in love been positive or negative? Why? (If needed; How important is it to your identity to have your truth received?)
- v. Is speaking the truth in love hard for you? Why?
- vi. What is God saying to you about speaking the truth in love? And what are you going to do about what he is saying?
- vii. Ask God, "To whom do I need to speak the truth in love?" (This can be just calling out the gold in someone or addressing a behavior that doesn't line up with who they are in God). Practice the conversation and have them decide when they will actually have this conversation.

b. How to mentor a Group

- i. (Discuss) What is speaking the truth in love?
- ii. What is God saying to you about speaking the truth in love? And what are you going to do about what he is saying?
- iii. If there is enough relationship in the room, invite participants to speak the truth in love to one another (remind them of the 90/10 principle – 90% calling up into who they really are and 10% correction).

1. If there is not enough relationship in the room, have them practice a conversation where they will speak the truth in love to someone in their life (again, keep in mind the 90/10 principle). Have them nail down when they will actually have this conversation.

Storying Suggestions

One tool that people often find helpful, especially in oral or oral preference culture, is storying. Stories are very important to life and are powerful connectors. The only way to get to know someone is to hear their story and tell yours. Parables especially can reveal “the hungry” or “the hardened” and bypass many barriers to penetrate the heart.

Be aware of storylines and their stories:

- The story of the Bible and its stories
- Our culture’s story
- The host country’s culture story
 - Note: The way to understanding worldview is through stories from the culture.
Examples of stories that represent worldview: Paul Bunyan, Davy Crockett
- Our own story (Salvation & Life Experience Stories: stories that show the heart of the Father, resolution of conflict as in your marriage, good fellowship as in church life, an experience of grace, stories of worship, answered prayer and healings that show the power of God, etc.)
- Other stories that illustrate points: God may give you a story or remind you of a story to address a situation. Kurt M from the video told stories he had created or had heard as evangelism as well as to deflect difficult situations. At times he combines stories into one story to make a theme.

Many cultures respond very well to stories in casual social situations. For some, finding opportunities can even be as direct as asking, “Would you like to hear a story?” during a lull in the conversation.

Values of Good Bible Storying

- Biblical
- Understandable in first telling- simple language, told in mother tongue
- Complete and powerful on its own
- Stories can address worldview issues. They can un-do wrong worldviews and develop Kingdom worldviews.

Practicals and Principles.

- ❖ Be animated, use gestures and maintain eye contact. A flat, memorized story will have little impact.
- ❖ Make Bible stories short so they are reproducible and can remain accurate with retelling.
- ❖ Simplify and adapt Bible stories. (vocabulary, names –Ex. In Muslim world, the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, no name is given for Abraham’s son) Figure out how to handle words that have no equivalent in the native tongue. In evangelism, you may want to contextualize the words. In a training situation where you are staying close to the scriptural text, you can give definitions or explanations in advance of the telling. Decide as a team the approach you will take and be consistent.
- ❖ Once you start telling the story, don’t add anything or stop to explain. It is too easy to add descriptive elements, embellishments to give the story life, or add opinions or commentary, but the Bible is enough. Once the extra element is there, it is difficult to remove on future tellings. Our opinions or preaching are not God’s word and we should be careful to not add them to a story or the discussion afterward. Use DBS questions as a follow-up.

- ❖ Choose a format that is appropriate for the context – In a lifegroup, training or class style storytelling approach, you can separate any explanations from the story, but in evangelism you may not even say the story is from the Bible. The phrase “This ends the story from the word of God.” used by some practitioners at the end of a story is good for classes and teaching respect for the Bible, but may not be the best approach for telling stories evangelistically in casual situations.
- ❖ As you select stories for EV and Discipleship, see them as both an individual story and how they contribute to the storyline of the Bible. An understanding of the Kingdom of God is built on stories, not doctrinal passages. New believers are less likely to fall away if they are grounded in stories relevant to their cultural worldview.

Training Process:

- ❖ In trainings or DBS meetings, model telling the story first.
- ❖ You may want to ask understanding questions—to see if they understood the content. This also helps them to review the content before they practice telling the story. We review the story using QUESTIONS, not preaching. Ex. Who are the main characters?
- ❖ Have the participants practice. In the retelling, was anything left out? Was anything added? Have everyone share the story or you can ask a series of people to tell parts of the story to get them to put it together in a chain. “What happened first?” “What happened next?”
- ❖ After you have established understanding, then ask impact/revelation, DBS-type questions to draw out the points, application, and who they will tell. Don’t teach the point, let them struggle with the story to discover what God is saying.
- ❖ Some storying methods use many questions in addition to the DBS questions. Try to see what works: Other possible questions-Do you act similar to or different from the characters?

Creating a Hybrid: Is Storying appropriate in Literate Cultures?

Some cultures have an oral preference even though they are literate, and all cultures have an oral history. You can develop a **hybrid** for a culture that is more literate... tell the story, read the story, then retell the story again or just read the story and then practice retelling. Telling the story first may be especially helpful if you have chosen a long story. (Note: Many people in more literate cultures can't retell a story from one reading.) If you are going to read the scripture, you will want to quickly explain any special terms such as “Pharisee.” In an oral telling, you can just substitute a different word.

Concentric Circles-

What is real- worldview

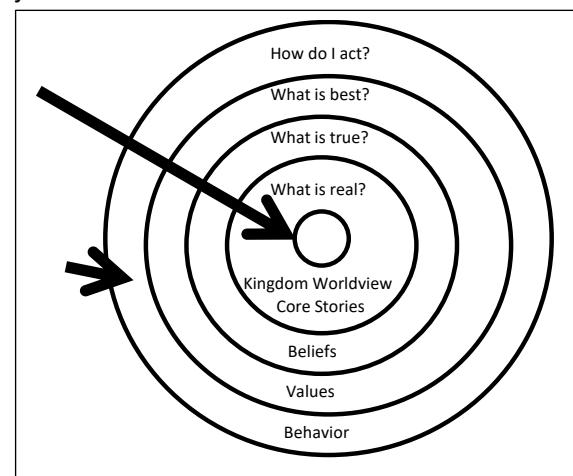
What is true- beliefs

What is good or best? – Values

How do I act?- behavior

Where to Concentrate

- They need core stories to form their belief system.
- If you don't start with core stories, they have nothing to drive them.
- If your lessons are about behavior, when you leave they will be less likely to continue the behavior.
- Also their thinking will swing radically when persuasive people misuse the scripture or there is a popular fad to distract them.



Activity: You may want to practice telling a story using the principles above.