

Story Matters:

25 Possible Biblical Stories that Might Capture a Congregation's Identity

After identifying major themes and aspects of your congregation's life, you are given the task of identifying what biblical passage might best capture the congregation's identity. Below are some potential passages to help get the juices flowing. The list, now expanded, came first from Blair Morgan, former director of evangelical mission for the Southwestern Pennsylvania synod. He noted that the captions may or may not be helpful. They could provide a hook or could distract from the opportunity for folks to find their own hook.

- Abraham and Sarah and the birth of Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7)
 - Yes, the impossible is possible with God
- The Call of Moses (Exodus 3:1-12)
 - Hearing God's voice from the burning bush
- David anointed by Samuel (I Samuel 16:1-13)
 - People and things seen differently by God
- The Healing of Naaman (II Kings 5:1-19)
 - God's unexpected power
- Psalm 23
 - God's shepherding love in the best and worst of times
- Psalm 96
 - Centered in worship of the LORD our God
- For Everything There is a Season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)
 - God owns time
- Micah 6:6-8
 - Our calling to respond faithfully to God's grace
- Valley of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
 - The Promise of New Life
- The Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)
 - Our scarcity or God's abundance?
- The Judgment – Sheep & Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - "I was ..., and you ..."
- "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-38)
 - We follow a crucified Christ
- James & John ask for high places (Mark 10:35-45)
 - Our call is to servanthood

- Mary' Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)
 - God has filled the hungry with good things
- The Golden Rule and other amazing challenges (Luke 6:20-36)
 - Some Basics from Jesus
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
 - "And who is my neighbor?"
- The Prodigal (and Elder) Son (Luke 15:11-32)
 - A mixed family of God
- Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
 - Hearts and eyes opened
- Philip & Nathanael recruited (John 1:43-51)
 - "Come and see"
- Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)
 - "Come and See"
- Jesus heals on the Sabbath (John 5:1-18)
 - "Do you want to be made well?"
- Jesus washes the disciples feet (John 13:1-20)
 - "You also should do what I have done to you"
- After Pentecost (Acts 2:37-47)
 - The First Steps at Being the Church
- Lydia and Paul (Acts 16:11-15)
 - The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly
- II Corinthians 4:1-18
 - We have these treasures in clay jars