

Media Centers: News Center

This activity is designed to help children, youth and adults grow in their understanding and desire to share the Good News as they explore the role of print communication in defining and shaping our culture. Participants will receive resources for naming and reclaiming and proclaiming the greatest story ever told.

Other resources have been designed to integrate the content of each learning center with the overall theme. The FPBN Gathering activities will introduce and distribute them for participant to use as they move through the "Go -Tell" Media Centers. FPBN I.D. Cards will recognize each participant as a member of the Faith Public Broadcasting Network and "Go-Tell" megaphones will be utilized to celebrate Jesus' invitation (Matthew 28:19) to go tell God's story. "Go-Tell" stickers have been designed to distribute and display key learnings from the "Go-Tell" Media Centers on the megaphones for future reference.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the details and tasks involved. You may wish to display a sign to identify each learning center. A Media Center sign design (PDF file) is provided for this purpose.

Scan through the activity outline and adapt it to honor your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using this activity to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Approximate time: 10 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- "Summary of God's Story" sheet (PDF file)
- "Here's the Scoop" children's sheet (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" reference sheet #1 (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" sticker sheet A (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" table tents (PDF file)
- "Go -Tell" sticker sheet A (PDF file)
- Planning Grid (PDF file)
- Several pieces of black construction paper, 9" x 12"
- A white or gold crayon
- AVERY #5366 file labels (2/3" x 3 – 7/16")

Leader's Notes:

Gather a variety of current newspapers, comic strips, magazines, fiction and nonfiction books and other print materials that are known to feature or publish stories. Include magazines that appeal to specific audiences, e.g. sports, news, teen and men and women. Include a Bible in your display.

Reproduce copies of the "Summary of God's Story" sheet and the "Here's the Scoop" children's sheet. Fold them and place them inside folded pieces of black construction paper to identify their contents as biblical. Place a cross just above the center of the front covers.

Make a copy of the “Go -Tell” reference sheet #1 and use the file labels to print copies of “Go - Tell” sticker sheet A. Place a sticker on a megaphone for easy reference. See Proclamation Station: Now & Then for the pattern and instructions for making a megaphone.

Download a “Go-Tell” table tent to identify the location of this activity. Fold the sheet lengthwise and cut along the solid line of the megaphone above the fold to set it apart from the rest of the table tent. Designate a number to identify this activity in the space provided.

Display the “Possibilities for Proclamation” sheet that identifies some of the newspapers and other print materials that participants have used. (It was used in the Proclamation Station: Now & Then Gathering Activity.)

Activity:

Invite participants to scan through the many resources you have displayed and identify a story that is of particular interest to them. Encourage them to briefly describe the story and their reason for choosing it.

Mention that people have preferences regarding the newspapers and magazines they read. Some topics intrigue some people more than others. (Refer to the Possibilities for Proclamation sheet.) Some topics are of strong interest to many people and are positioned on the front page of many major newspapers and others have very minimal exposure. Share some of the following thoughts about stories.

Some stories have a definite start and stop and others are ongoing, e.g., comic strips and news about the war or the political arena. Some are light-hearted and others are intense dramatic and even tragic. They all serve to characterize our culture and our lives. Some stories stay with us for a lifetime and some fade as others take their place in our hearts and minds. David Walsh, the director for the National Institute for Media and the Family, states that the ones who tell the story define the culture.

Hold up a Bible and recognize it is the ongoing #1, worldwide bestseller of all time. Point out that it has defined and shaped the history of our world more than any other person, reference or event. It contains stories that reflect the adventures of many people and cultures. Some are tragic and full of conflict and others are joyous or even romantic. Many are historical, while others are told in parable. Bottom-line, the overall message continues to stand the test of time. In fact, it is known as the best story ever told.

Invite participants to share some of their favorite Bible stories. Then, suggest that many people know some of the stories of the Bible, but very few feel comfortable describing God’s salvation story in a nutshell.

Display the sample copies of “Summary of God’s Story” sheet and the “Here’s the Scoop” as you distribute them. You may wish to give adults copies of both resources for reference. Suggest that they both identify highlights of God’s relationship with God’s people and God’s activity based on God’s great love for them. Review one or both of the resources, depending the dynamics of your group.

You might scan through “Here’s the Scoop” first and invite children to color the pictures while you consider the Bible verses chosen to characterize God’s story from a more adult point of view. Mention that there are many other verses that could or maybe even should have been chosen, but, this version marks a simple Biblical path through God’s salvation story.

Suggest that the more familiar we become with a story, the more confident we become in our desire and ability to share it with others. Encourage them to participate in classes and ongoing

discussion groups to nurture their understanding and desire to share God's story. Explain that there are hundreds of resources that provide thorough and in-depth accounts that might be helpful resources in your ongoing adult education programs.

Display "Go-Tell" reference sheet #1 and distribute the "Go-Tell" sticker from sheet A as you identify God's purpose in recording God's story in print. Encourage participants to adhere the stickers to their megaphone for future reference.