

SESSION I

1/3 of the world is “functionally illiterate” or “oral.” Readers use outlines, principles, and summary statements while non-readers communicate and recall through stories and songs which contain their lessons (i.e. parables).

Non-reading missionaries are nearly non-existent. Therefore, we often associate the reader’s way of thinking/learning as the way to reach non-reading cultures and we have been wrong

In fact, until recently, most pioneer missions required a non-reader who became a Christian convert to read and write prior to baptism. Perhaps this is not as common on the mission field as it was, but it is fair to say that it has been truly unthinkable to suggest a non-reader can become a leader or pastor or missionary. While the focus on reading is a noble goal, it may pass over an entire generation who will likely never read.

It has become increasingly clear that missionaries need a method to 1) evangelize, 2) disciple and 3) train leaders who cannot read. The Oral Bible method is aimed at internalizing, remembering, and reproducing the Gospel in a non-reading culture.

The Oral Bible is teaching God’s Word in a way that preserves the Biblical stories intact and capable of carrying the necessary teachings leading to salvation, church planting, discipling and leadership training.

The goal is to create an Oral Bible that is consistent, repeatable and accurate.

This method of teaching is based upon the following 4 steps:

Step 1:
Identify the Essential Bible Truths for your goal

What is the goal? Is it evangelism? Discipleship? Building up an existing church? Each of these goals has its own set of Essential Bible Truths that God wishes to convey from His Word. These Essential Bible Truths determine which set of stories should be told and all of these stories become what is called a “Track.”

The following are the Essential Bible Truths to be covered when evangelizing:

- There is one God who is the Creator and controls history.
- God is all powerful and all knowing and can provide for all our needs.
- God has spoken with people who have written down His Word.
- God faithfully keeps all of His promises.
- God loves all people and wants fellowship with them.
- God is holy, righteous and hates sin.
- Sin brings the curse of death and eternal separation from God.
- People are accountable to God for their lives and whether they obeyed Him.
- Everyone is born with a sinful nature and chooses to sin (which separates them from God).
- People can do nothing to save themselves from the judgment and punishment for their sin.
- A person can ONLY find peace with God through the ONE perfect and sinless substitute sacrifice that God provided in the —Promised One.
- Jesus the Son of God (the Promised One) is the only perfect sacrifice for sin ever offered.
- Salvation comes when people turn (repent) from sin and seek God’s mercy by trusting God’s Sacrifice and believing on Jesus as the only Savior from eternal punishment for sin.

When preparing to evangelize a people group, you must take these Essential Bible Truths and then in step 2, identify the cultural Barriers which affect how they receive these Truths.

Step 2:
Identify the Barriers (cultural beliefs)
that resist God’s message

Some Bible Truths may be more difficult than others for listeners to accept because of their history or culture. These are Barriers to God’s message. For instance, if a person believes in multiple gods, then they will struggle to believe that there is only One. Or, if a person has been taught reincarnation, then they will have difficulty accepting that they only have a single life to live.

It cannot be stressed enough that time must be spent to understand each people group and their beliefs. Once you have identified the Barriers to God’s message then they should be listed and given a 1, 3, 5 ranking for each Truth.

1-God’s message is new and the Barrier is only slightly held and offers little resistance to the Truth.

3-The Barrier is important to the culture, yet only offers moderate resistance to the Truth.

5-This particular Barrier offers great resistance to God’s message and will make it extremely difficult for a listener to receive the Truth.

MASTER'S BIBLESCHOOL

Step 3:
***Incorporate the Barriers and
Bible Truths into your Track***

Once you have determined the Truths that you need to focus on and have ranked the cultural resistance to these truths, now you can choose which Bible stories you will use to share the Truths. As an example, there are 24 Bible stories which best convey the Bible Truths for evangelism. When you incorporate the Bible Truths, Barriers and stories together you have now formed a Track.

How many stories are needed for each Truth? If a Bible Truth has a -1- Barrier then that Bible Truth will only need to be emphasized in **A MINIMUM** of one of the story telling times. You may incorporate this Truth as often as you want in future stories, but it is essential that you emphasize this truth at least once.

If the Bible Truth has a -3- Barrier then that Truth will need to be expressed in **A MINIMUM** of three Bible stories (more stories are even better), so that it can gently press God's message through the Barrier without directly attacking a tradition. One of the reasons the Oral Bible is effective is because it gently reveals Bible Truths so that the listeners will keep listening as long as possible. The truths need to be told without entering a debate unless absolutely necessary. It is better to approach a Barrier slowly with several stories than to try demolishing a lifelong belief all at once.

Therefore, if the Bible Truth has a -5- Barrier then that Truth will need to be conveyed in **A MINIMUM** of five story telling times. Complete a chart similar to the following:

Essential Bible Truth	Barrier Ranking	Stories that will emphasize this Truth
<p>EXAMPLE:</p> <p><i>There is one God who is the Creator and controls history.</i></p> <p><i>God is all powerful and all knowing and can provide for all our needs.</i></p> <p><i>God communicates with people by His Word and always keeps His promises.</i></p>	<p>3 <i>Moderate Resistance</i></p> <p>1 <i>Little Resistance</i></p> <p>5 <i>Great Resistance</i></p>	<p><i>The MINIMUM number of stories in this list must match the Barrier Ranking. In addition, an individual story may be used for several Truths rather than only one.</i></p> <p><i>Gen 1-3*, Ex 5-12* and Ex 19-20*</i></p> <p><i>Gen 1-3* (notice this story covers more than one truth)</i></p> <p><i>Ex 5-12* (refer back to Gen 15:1-16), Ex 19-20*, 2 Kgs 23:1-24 (refer back to 1Kgs 13), Lk 1-2, Lk 16:19-31</i></p>

With this chart completed for all of your Truths, there is one important final step.

***Final Step:
Identify Bridges (events, histories or situations)
which relate to God’s message***

When Jesus gave the great commission, He added, “*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Mark also says, “*They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them.*” Therefore, when sharing the Gospel on the mission field, expect Jesus will be with you. Look for how He has prepared the people to receive His message of salvation. Untold times, missionaries have found people groups who had recently undergone some ordeal or received a vision or a dream or who have some belief which authenticates God’s message. These events, beliefs, practices, relationships, experiences or even longings become Bridges which prove God’s message to them. Identify these Bridges and utilize them as illustrations in your story telling.

You are now ready with your list of Bible Truths, cultural Barriers and have now considered the cultural Bridges which help prove God’s message. All that remains is to put these Barriers, Bridges and Biblical Truths into a **CHRONOLOGICAL** set of stories which will lay the foundation for your goal.

Use “building a house” as a word picture for them. We do not put the roof on first. We construct a foundation and then the following steps rest upon previous work until the house stands. Many times people reject the Gospel because they do not have a foundation to understand God or what He is offering them. This is why we first determine the EBT’s and then move chronologically through the lessons.

- Tracks included in this booklet are:
- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- Church Planting
- Church Strengthening
- Leadership
- End Times
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