

Scripture from the Heart

During the time of Jesus, the Gospel was shared almost entirely through **oral** tradition because most of the population was illiterate. We want you to learn to practise this oral tradition. The art of sharing Scripture from the heart helps us to understand a text or story on a deeper level while also generating fresh connections to our current lives.

The idea is not to manipulate how God should or will move those who listen to us sharing Scripture from the heart, nor do we seek a perfect repetition of how the story was told in Jesus' time. It is also not a performance, as it is not about the storyteller but about the story.

We want you to bless the ESOM group first and then also your local church with you sharing a scripture from the heart.

Practice

With a partner, work through the following exercises using the passage you like to share.

LEARN THE STORY

Choose a story from the Gospels, such as Jesus in Gethsemane, the feeding of the 5,000, or Jesus visiting the house of Simon. Read the passage silently, studying it and committing it to memory as best you can.

- Tell the story from memory, following the wording of the text as closely as possible. The other person should listen without looking at the passage. After telling the story, look at the passage and make notes about what you missed.
- Which words or phrases gave you the most trouble? Why?
- Now switch roles with your partner and listen to their story.

EXPLORE THE CHARACTERS

- Choose a character within the story and tell the story from that character's point of view. Change pronouns as needed, but try to follow the wording of the text as closely as possible.
- Listen to your partner tell the story from a different character's point of view.

EMBODY THE STORY

- Each person should tell the story again, but this time make intentional choices about how to embody the story in your telling.
- Where and how will you stand, and how will you move as you tell the story?
- What gestures will you use to emphasize the meaning of the story?
- What emotions will you try to communicate? How will you do that?
- After you listen to your partner tell the story, discuss which storytelling choices were most effective.