

Marni Gillard Acting Our Bible Stories to Internalize Layers of Meaning

Opening Introductions: (small group allows for feel THIS community - share something of how you ENTER a Bible story and help those you work with to climb inside and EXPERIENCE “layers of meaning.”)

I'll share last going into a short journey-tale of how I came to turn STORYtelling toward BIBLICAL Storying.

Activity 1 Make a list of 5 Bible stories you “carry in your heart” - because of a particular CHARACTER's experience or a SCENE you can ENVISION in which God/Jesus/Spirit is working in the world. (space to write here)

2. I'll introduce the importance of deep/attentive listening as we share in partners and how to say back (appreciate) what you heard, what it brought up in you. Then we'll switch.

Task: Pick one of those and share with a partner what you IMAGINED, SAW, EXPERIENCED as you entered that story. Who's there? What emotions are present. What meaning(s) does this story carry for you? Turn to a partner - sharing ONE at a time, what you discovered, listening, saying back. I'll use a timer to be sure each person gets time to be heard.

TAKE A BREAK

Activity 3 Find a small group of people to explore one of four Bible story scripts (I brought). The idea is to read through but then let go of the script of the script if possible or ADAPT the script “parts” in a way that will help you as a group bring the tale to LIFE. It's FINE to go off-script and improvise dialogue, feel free to dramatize. Make the story feel REAL.

As a whole group we'll process the experience - small enough group that all will be encouraged to speak about a discovery, understanding, a new strategy or a “what if....?” question to take away.

If time, Marni will close with the poem “To Look at Anything” or possibly song “In this eternal moment..” as a way to bring prayerful closure to this storying - a work of companions on the journey.