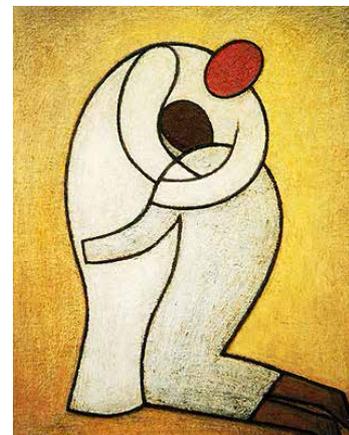


## Ministering with Bible Stories

**W**hen you seek to meet the needs of others, how can you use Bible stories? Listening to people is the key. Trust that the Holy Spirit will bring Bible stories to mind, so listen to the Lord while listening to the person in need.

Returning to my hotel after church, I was carrying my Bible and a young man stepped into the hallway to greet me. He said, “Are you a preacher? I was in the lobby when you checked in and overheard you talking about Jesus.” We went into the parking lot outside of the lobby. He poured out his heart about accepting Christ five years before, but how he had done drugs, used women, and been fired from several jobs. He said he was sick of his life and was at a crossroads. He had tried physical solutions and psychological solutions, but they had all failed. He asked if I could give him a spiritual solution.

Now it was time to go into ministry mode in storying style. I asked him if he knew the Bible story of the Prodigal Son. On the spot, he told it to me, even citing the chapter number in Luke, but oddly, he left out one important part. I asked him, “What happened that made the younger son want to return to his father?” He drew a blank. As we often see, he knew about the story, but he didn’t know the story.



Just as conversationally as we had been talking, I storied just that part and slowed down to emphasize: “He came to his senses. He had a change of heart.” Then I stayed in storying mode and asked, “Have you come to your senses? Will you tell God what’s on your heart?” He stopped talking to me and broke into one of the coolest prayers of repentance I’ve ever heard. He thanked me and I left him talking by phone to his sponsor to say he wanted to accept the challenges that lay before him on his recovery.

Helping others discover Bible truths for themselves takes the focus off of you and onto God, where it should be. As we say in workshops, the responsibility for learning (and ministry) shifts from you to the learner.