

# Unleashing the Power of Story

A Collision of Narrative

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## Story Reveals Truth



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## More than Entertainment

- stories highlight the importance of personal experience,
- story side-steps debate,
- story provokes interest



“Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.”

*(Matthew 13:34)*

**“Jesus was not a theologian, he was a God who told stories.”**

**Madeleine L'Engle**

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### Institutional Faith Stories

- Encounter with “The Church”
- Vague & non-personal language
- Talk about what they “do”
- Sacramental experiences are transactional and may have intellectual impact

### Intentional Faith Stories

- Encounter with Persons of Trinity
- Concrete & intimate language
- Talk about how they were transformed, healed, set free, etc.
- Sacramental experiences are tangible and have affective impact

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### Story Builds Relationship

The light of faith is linked to concrete life-stories. Lumen Fidei, 12

“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ.”

Catechesi Tradendae, 5



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“The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.”

Evangelii Gaudium, 264

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Faith is not the product of reflection, nor is it even an attempt to penetrate the depths of my own being. Both these things may be present, but they remain insufficient without the ‘listening’ through which God, from without, from **a story he himself created** challenges me.

Pope Benedict XVI  
Interview October 2015

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Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice, or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

*Pope Benedict XVI*

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## Your Story


**“I WAS ...”**



**“...JESUS DID...”**



**“I AM ...”**



“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.”

1 Peter 3:15

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