

Finding the Biblical Story of your Church

1. Allow an hour at least (or better up to two) for this exercise.
2. Use with a group of leaders (planning group, elders, ministry leaders).
3. Best used in a retreat setting away from the church.
4. Process:
 - a. Provide Bibles
 - b. Describe the process: “Find the biblical story our congregation is now experiencing or living. Identify why that story belongs to us in a special way at this time. Indicate we will share a range of stories with each other but look for one or two which we can all sense somehow capture the imagination of the group. 30 mins
 - c. Ask people or groups to share their stories and particularly their reasons for their selection and what the story says to them.
 - d. Allow for responses. Look for indications of connection or recognition in the group.
 - e. When a story does surface that has resonance for the whole group allow it to become a focus for study and discussion over time. Begin the process in the session allowing the opportunity for questions to be generated over which the group will reflect in coming weeks.
 - f. Schedule a second meeting to bring these reflections together.

Reflections Questions:

1. Is this the story we want our church to reflect?
2. If we could choose any story to represent our church what would that be?
3. What steps do we need to take in light of the biblical story that best represents our church?
4. What values are being represented by the story?
5. What do we need to hold on to in light of our story and what do we need to let go?