



Adult Christian Spiritual Formation for the 21st Century

JESUS-BOOK CLUB

Adults in their 20s & 30s are the hardest people for the faith community to reach. Baptism parents, newly-marrieds, school parents – most are seeking but are busy and often skittish. The Storykeepers offer a route that doesn't threaten anyone – "it's only a kids video" – but **Jesus' parables are much more subtle than that.** **JESUS-BOOK CLUB** is an opportunity for adults to interact with each other about questions and connections raised by episodes of "The Storykeepers" videos.

The goal is that the sessions have these characteristics:

- **Cheerful and uplifting**—so that the adults enjoy being there
- **Interactive**—so that community and learning occurs
- **Accepting**—so that they have confidence to say something if they wish
- **Spiritual**—so that they may grow in Christian faith

Synopsis of "The Storykeepers" Videos

Over the course of 13 half-hour episodes, *The Storykeepers* animated series tells the story of a Christian family in first-century Rome and the early days of the Church. Each film includes the telling of several biblical stories from the Gospels. The good news of Christ Jesus and the parables he told are re-experienced as Ben, Helena, their children and friends live out their faith in a dangerous world.

The episodes are full of exciting adventure, gentle humor, and searching questions. They also portray the same kind of daily activities and challenges that are common to individuals and families of every time. They are historical fiction that accurately teach church history in a fun way, and present the Gospels faithfully.

Storykeepers Themes and Biblical Stories

1. **Fairness and Forgiveness**—Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teachings "radically Counter Cultural", Feeding the 5000, Zacchaeus, Jairus' Daughter
2. **Communication**—John the Baptist, Stilling the Storm, Gerasene Demoniac
3. **Friendship**—Good Samaritan, The Sower, Unmerciful Servant
4. **Courage**—Blessing the Children, Blind Bartimaeus, Man with Withered Hand
5. **Doing, Not Just Talking**—Pharisee and Tax Collector, House Built on Rock, Healing of Paralytic
6. **Giving**—The 3 Magi, Flight into Egypt, Annunciation, Birth of Jesus
7. **Caring**—Lost Sheep, Healing of the Deaf and Dumb Man, Widow's Mite
8. **Acceptance**—Centurion's Servant, Prodigal Son
9. **Making Choices**—Transfiguration, Entry into Jerusalem, Wicked Tenants
10. **Betrayal and Loyalty**—Judas Betrays Jesus, Anointing at Bethany, Last Supper, Peter's Promise
11. **Telling the Truth and Facing Consequences**—Gethsemane, Sanhedrin Trial, Peter's Denial, Pilate Trial
12. **First Things First**—Crucifixion, Jesus' Last Words, Joseph of Arimathea, Resurrection, Appearance to Mary
13. **Hope and New Life**—Emmaus Road, Doubting Thomas, Ascension, At the Lakeside



Suggested Format

- 9 sessions plus 4 more in Lent; with snacks, coffee, tea, juice, wine, etc
- Watch the half-hour video followed by open discussion, using conversation starters
- Maximum of 20 per group



Conversation Starters

1. For one or more of the biblical stories presented in each episode: What is the implication of those stories for our life now? **What questions or issues does the story raise for you as an adult Christian?**
2. For the Storykeepers theme of each episode: **How does this theme illuminate your own faith experience?** How do you experience this theme happening in your own relationship with God?
3. In each episode there are different aspects explored in the relationship between the Church—the community of faith—and the dominant culture. What is your feeling about the persecution of the church then, specifically, its refusal to worship the emperor as God? **What do you think is the importance of the church now in its relationship to the way you live?**
4. Ben and Helena told the stories of Jesus to the children they adopted so the children would know who Jesus was, why he was important, and how he gives guidance to our lives. **What are you doing as a parent, grandparent, or mentor to make sure that your children know the stories of Jesus – buying a set of Storykeepers/ I Remember When perhaps?**

www.storykeepers.com