**Holiness Sermon Illustrations Jesus’ style**

Facilitator: Rev. Jubilee Thanga, Myanmar District

**Guide for Using this Facilitator’s Handout**

The layout of this Handout is designed to make things as easy as possible for the facilitator running this interactive learning workshop. It consists of a number of activities, which vary the learning style. These may include the followings:

**questions**: either for all participants together, in pairs, or groups — as indicated.  All questions have suggested answers with them. These are provided as a guide to you, as facilitator, to help you know what to expect in response, so that if the answer we have given is not mentioned by the participants you may want to refer to it.

**group work**: the activities require the participants to be in smaller groups. For convenience, we have used four different groups like four colors (blue, yellow, green, red).

**quick buzz**: this is where you get participants thinking about an issue, to give an immediate response. Sometimes this is in groups, but more often in two or three together.

**chat back**: this is where you get feedback from the participants on a task you have set them and record their responses on a flipchart or board. It is important to do this after group work to enable all to learn from what each group has discovered.

Materials need for the group work...

* Sticky tack or pins or tape (for fixing charts or paper  to the wall).
* Paper Charts (at least 4 sheets)

**Brainstorm Activity: Creativity: 5 minutes**

Tell the participants that somehow we have to make the Bible come alive, and that means thinking a bit more adventurously.

**Activity: Puzzle Challenge**

Prepare in advance on the board some sets of nine spaced out dots (three by three) bounded by a close border forming a box outside the dots, as illustrated on the left.

Explain that you want to challenge the participants in a very simple test, and invite one volunteer from each group to come out to the board to join up some dots with straight lines.

Instructions to the four volunteers are as follows:

1. Place your pen on any of the dots.
2. You can only make four straight lines on the board.
3. In your four strokes you have to cover all the dots.
4. You must not take your pen off the board.

**Hint:** To speed things up, tell them that they have to start in 4 seconds... start counting!

 

 correct line participant’s exercise

Don’t say anything about the frame around the dots. Everyone will assume that they are not allowed to go outside the box.

Let the volunteers try it out.

Finally, demonstrate how it is done correctly. The lines drawn have to extend outside of the border frame.

Emphasize to participants that the puzzle can only be completed if they ‘break out’ of the box.

Often our thinking is confined by assumptions we make, or by familiar patterns of doing things. For creativity, we need to ‘break out’ of this ‘box’ and try something new.

**Key Points**

For participants to write down:

* We must think outside the ‘box’ or ‘frame’.
* We need to try new ways of making the Bible/ the word of God come alive by new illustrations
* We must not just do it in the way that it has always been done before.
* This is Jesus’ style: Luke 5:36

“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.”

**Quick Buzz: 5 minutes**

Ask opening questions:

1. What is an illustration?

Illustration can be a simple short story about everyday objects and experiences that teach a moral or spiritual lesson.

1. Why do we need illustration for holiness sermon?

Biblical references for answer:

Psalm 78:2: “I will open my mouth with a parables; I will utter hidden things, things from of old.

Matt. 13:10-11: “The disciples came to him and asked, “why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them….”

1. Did Jesus ever illustrate in his teaching and preaching?

Almost 35% of Jesus’ words in the Gospels are illustrations that included a story, parable, word picture, allegory, simile or metaphor.

There are 51 different stories and parables in the Gospels[[1]](#endnote-1)

**Group Work: 15 minutes**

Make sure everyone is in their group. Give instructions to the groups as follows:

Each group will now be given an area of Jesus’ ministry to look at, to see how he illustrated his talks. After 15 minutes, one member or more from each group will present their group’s comments.

**Hint:**

Please do not give the given answers (bellow) to the participants, but just use for complementary of their group work’s feedback’s presentation. You can add them to their result if they do not mention.

**Questions:**

Here are the questions for each group:

**BLUE GROUP**

Q: What verbal/ word pictures and stories of illustration did Jesus use to help his listeners understand?

*Some Answers:*

* *‘I am the living water’.*
* *Used questions.*
* *Quoted Old Testament accounts.*
* *Gave examples — e.g. Luke 13:15–16 (leading an*  *ox to water).*
* *Told stories, e.g. a lost son, the good Samaritan, many other stories*

**RED GROUP**

Q: What objects of illustration did Jesus use or talk about to help his listeners understand?

*Some Answers:*

* *The good shepherd.*
* *The door.*
* *The way.*
* *Living water.*
* *Lilies of the field.*
* *The red sky at night.*
* *Sparrows.*
* *Grain.*
* *Coin.*
* *Wine.*
* *Sheep.*
* *Bread.*

**YELLOW GROUP**

Q: What places did Jesus use for his teaching and preaching?

*Some Answers:*

* *The temple.*
* *The wilderness.*
* *The lakeside.*
* *On a boat.*
* *In a garden.*
* *On a cross.*
* *A wedding.*
* *A well.*
* *Samaria.*
* *Anywhere.*



**Hint:**

Make the point that the teaching must not just be at a set time in a meeting; it can be ANY TIME and at ANY PLACE.

**GREEN GROUP**

Q: Who were the people Jesus use as illustration in a teaching event?

*Some Answers:*

* *The last supper — disciples.*
* *Collecting water for him — the woman at the well.*
* *Breakfast — the disciples bring fish for breakfast*  *by Galilee.*
* *Fishing — Jesus gives advice.*
* *The great in heaven – a child*
* *A wedding — miracle of water to wine.*
* *Peter walking on the water.*
* *Feeding of 5,000 and 7,000 people.*

**Chat Back: 15 minutes**

Ask all groups to write their discussion result in the chart. Give feedback report what they found from their group discussions. Other groups to add comments if they wish.

Emphasize that:

1. Jesus illustrated almost everything using short and simple picture language. We have to do the same.
2. Jesus used familiar objects at hand as illustrations. We have to do the same.
3. Jesus involved people practically (experience) in his illustration. We have to do the same.
4. Jesus didn’t spend all His time in the temple. We have to be creative in our presentation of the Gospel in anytime and anywhere.

**Key point**

Ask participants to write down:

We must use every type of illustration we can find in our own ministry area. We should be **exporters** of Holiness illustration, NOT *importers.*

**Application: Writing illustrations for Holiness Theme - 15 minutes**

Ask the participants to choose at least 3 holiness theme from the given lists, and continue in thinking and developing all available illustrations for Holiness Sermon by writing stories, collecting objects, and learning people’s stories wherever they are.

Please ask them to fill up the worksheet to everyone before conclusion. It is wise to keep personal sermon illustration book.

**Conclusion: 5 minutes**

Rev. Lisa Lehman, Regional Literature Coordinator or any regional leader will lead conclusion for further instruction for regional development plan for Holiness Sermon Illustrations Jesus’ style.

**Note:** This handout is adapted and modified from the Lesson of Bible Story Dynamics: Practice by Peter Empson, printed and used by Hi Kidz Myanmar Foundation.

1. Lynn Wilford Scarborough, Talk like Jesus: The Master Communicator, (Mumbai, India: Jaico Publishing House, 2009), 76. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)