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Stories That Stick – Discussion Guide

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

Read Luke 18:9-14 Discuss the merits of Jesus teaching a lesson in a story versus saving a lot of his time and ours by just saying, “Be humble.”

Section 2

Go to www.OverflowShow.com and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled “Stories That Stick.”

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

What percentage(s) does research say we forget from a conversation after 1 minute? After 8 hours?

How effective was the story that was meant to cast doubt on the theory of macroevolution. Share your thoughts?

There is, indeed, so much evil in the world. So God is too weak, too cruel, or too disinterested to stop it, right? Respond using the authors’ analogy and critique that analogy.

How do the authors' portray humans who would live under the tazer gun control approach?

According to the authors, what kind of world would God like to have for us? What is His reasoning for not making that happen?

The mountain paths analogy is a story that is given to us by Universalists. What is a good way to respond to this story to cast doubt on it?

How might Jesus or Mohammed respond to being portrayed as one of many equal paths to the same place?

What are a few other stories you have heard that are effective and memorable spiritually?

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

One suggestion (if needed):

Pick a recent news story that is clearly a result of someone's evil or cruelty. Share that you have wondered how that kind of evil could exist in the world. Ask a non-Christian friend if they have heard the story and his opinion on why something like that could happen. Offer the tazer illustration to him, its flaws, and the biblical view of God's posture toward forcing humans to obey.

Or

Share with a non-Christian friend that someone mentioned this week that all religions are just different paths on the same mountain leading to the same God. Ask her opinion of this. If she asks your opinion, respond that you hear that analogy a lot but you are having trouble being comfortable with it for several reasons. (Would have to change the teachings of almost all the world's major religions' founders to make that work).

Overflow enthusiastically recommends the book [The God Conversation: Using Stories and Illustrations to Explain Your Faith](#) by J. P. Moreland and Tim Muehlhoff, from IVP Books.

Related Overflow Shows: "Evil and Suffering"

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