

Session 2: Shifting Our Focus

In the story of David going up against the giant Goliath, is the takeaway "be brave and trust God like David" OR "God was with David. God saved the people" ?

"Approaching the story in this manner [focusing on the human characters, with God as an observer] basically communicates to kids that God is also a bystander in their own lives. God watches them, evaluates their choices, and likes them a little bit more or a little bit less depending on whether they get it right or not. If God likes them, they may slay giants; if not, they're in trouble." p.69

Doing Less on Purpose

Spiral Learning

- Growth is a spiral process, revisiting ideas again & again
- Trust that this is not the only chance to talk or learn about XYZ
- Start small & add on more over time

Smaller, Shorter, Slower

- Just choose ONE truth to focus on
- Less is good and sometimes better than more



Skip & Save

- Accessible vs over-simplified, interpreted, & generalized
- Nothing wrong in waiting to engage with a story



God-Centered

Christian education has long been reduced to memorization of scripture and pulling out a moral application. Bible characters become heroes to emulate rather than flawed but beloved human beings. Shifting the focus away from the actions of the human characters and toward the actions of God has a significant impact. Is Scripture simply a manual for how to act or is it a Story through which we get to know who God is?

Explore & Respond

- Allow space for curiosity & not-knowing
- We can wonder and ask questions without being anxious about finding one "right" answer
- Scripture is not a research paper with a three part thesis. It is poetry, history, parables letters, and more. Engage it with your head and your heart.

