

Bring a Book to Life

One of my favorite events at Kernersville Little Theater is called “Bring a Book to Life.” Each year KLT presents a children’s book to every 3rd grade student at Kernersville Elementary School. Kernersville Elementary is a “Title I school” with a diverse population yet they provide great opportunities to encourage student achievement. Not only does KLT give the students a book but then their actors perform the same story for the entire 3rd grade class. The live performance places students right in the middle of the action, so they can experience first-hand what they read in their book. As a result, the students can feel the emotions and gain a better understanding of the setting and context of the story. The story literally comes to life for them.

I recently watched the first season of an 8-part series entitled The Chosen. It is available on YouTube and can be live-streamed (for free) on a “smart” TV, computer screen, cell phone or tablet. The series re-enacts biblical stories about the life of Jesus. I have read the printed words of every story in the Bible, but seeing it performed on the screen makes it come to life. For example, I didn’t fully comprehend how deeply the Roman rulers and religious leaders felt threatened by Jesus, the “King of the Jews.” They saw the enormous popularity Jesus was gaining as he preached and healed. The Roman rulers feared losing their authority. The religious leaders were appalled that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God – an equal to God. That is why they demanded that Jesus be crucified. *As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” (John 19:6).* I read many times about the crowds but until I saw it on the screen it didn’t fully sink in.



Our church Small Group meets monthly for Bible study. Our favorite style of lessons is Ray Vanderlaan studies filmed on location in the Holy Lands. We can see on the screen and hear explanations about where and what happened. We follow the footsteps of Jesus and other key people of the Bible as the history of mankind unfolds on our TV screen. If a “picture is worth a thousand words,” imagine how great a video is to put things in perspective.

We can’t always have performances of the Bible stories at our fingertips. As you read your Bible, stop at the end of each scene to imagine what it was like in real time. Ask yourself several questions, like these:

- What is happening here? Visualize in your mind what it looked like.
- What genuine emotions do you think were present?
- How does this story fit in God’s plan? What is God trying to tell us?

To help you in this process, utilize a study Bible, either as a companion source or for your main reading. It contains helpful notes that explain the context and meaning of the passages. Or, read summaries on-line to prepare you for what you are about to read. I have found an on-line resource, SparkNotes.com, to be helpful.

I have a habit of reading words but not really comprehending the significance of what I am reading. Periodically asking questions helps me to grasp what God is trying to tell me. The Bible is the most important book for mankind. Find ways for the stories of the Bible to come to life for you.

The Bible Says: *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better (Ephesians 1:17). The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130).*

Question: What methods do you use to better understand the scriptures?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Help us to better understand your purposes as revealed in scripture. Let us seek resources that lead to a better comprehension of your Word. Amen.