

KILLERS TO A GOOD STORY

1. Too Long

- If the story is Too Long, they can't remember it
- **Needs to be only 2-4 minutes.**
- Any longer, they might start losing attention or mixing up information.
 - They might leave out something important while remembering something not that important.

2. Too Many Names of People and Places

- Bible names are often Foreign Nonsensical Sounding words
- Just mere sounds to Memorize
- **Minimize to only Essential names to the story or overall Story Set**
 - Paul is Important, Ananias is not Important in Paul's Conversion
 - Jerusalem is Important, Damascus is not
- ONLY 2-3 New Names per Story at MOST

3. Christianese

- Be aware, **there are many words used among Christians that others don't understand.** It's like we speak our own insider language.
- Just because it's **understandable** and common to you doesn't mean it is to others
- **Examples:**
 - Son of Man
 - Righteousness
 - Christ
 - Word of God
 - Kingdom of God
- Also, there are some verses or phrases that just don't make sense/are not very **understandable** – Simplify them and make them **Understandable**

4. Lists

- Lists are difficult to remember
- **For Example: Who Do People Say I Am Story: Mk 8:27**
 - John the Baptist, Elijah, One of the Prophets
 - Suggested to just simplify to One of the Prophets
- Not only a list of 3 items, but maybe 3 phrases
- **Like Gen 3:6 – The woman saw that the fruit was**
 - Good for food, Delight to the eyes, Able to make one wise

- That's a list – Generally just choose only 1 or 2 most important things.

5. Speeches, Monologues, and Teachings

- **These are the greatest Killers to a good story**, because they are hands down the hardest thing to remember.
- Stories that have a lot of **teaching** are not like an interesting action story that you can relate to and connect with. So, you must limit the content.
 - It might be great teaching, but in storying it is usually new information, long speech, difficult to understand, and hard to remember and retell.
- **For Example: Who Do People Say I Am Story: Mk 8:34-38**
 - Vs 34 If anyone wishes to come after Me he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me
 - Vs 35 Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it
 - Vs 36 What does it benefit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul
 - Vs 37 What can a man give in exchange for his soul
 - Vs 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with His holy angels.
- This is all so long, so complicated, and impossible to remember. Something like this will need to be shrunk down to 2 lines, maybe 3 at most. Summarize, simplify.
 - **Questions to help you do so:**
 - *What is the main point of this section?*
 - *What are the 1 or 2 most important things in this section we must have?*
 - *What can we leave out without changing the main point or meaning?*
 - *What can we combine or summarize together?*
- **Another Example: Peter's Sermon in Peter and John Heal the Lame Man Acts 3**
 - **Sermons** in Acts are all impossible to remember in an oral story
 - **Pick the 2 or 3 most important things and leave out all the rest.**
 - If you include more than that listeners cannot remember it, they will lose interest in the story, or might mix things up.

Always be on Alert for these Killers in Stories. Identify them. When you hear a story, ask are there any Killers we need to Address. Outside of Accuracy, this is 75% of all problems in Stories.