

Stories of God (1)

- (Image: book, "once upon a time...")
- Silly game: making up a story one word at a time!
 - turn to neighbour, in 2s or 3s, and try it?
 - or get a couple of volunteers?
- What are stories? What is important in stories? Telling our own stories?
- What do teachers look for in stories?
 - character
 - narrative
 - description
- What ways can we tell stories?
 - spoken, read, movie, pictures....
- Stories can be real as well as made up - in fact, some of the best stories are real

What are our God stories?

- Can you tell the person next to you one thing that happened to you this week that you think they don't know?
- Can you tell the person next to you something that happened this week that you wonder whether God was involved in?

Stories of God (2)

- Go to the passage in Acts:
 - want to pick out two things...
 - there were stories of God at work in particular people and places and ways (v.12)
 - those stories fitted into God's big story of salvation (v.14,15)
- God healed, God spoke to people, God drew people who were far from God to himself
 - and he is doing that amongst us today
- Those tokens of salvation, those healings and restorations, those transformations of individual lives are signs of God's big story, his rescue mission for everyone who will respond:
 - God made the world good
 - we have sinned and spoiled it
 - God's desire is to rescue us
 - but to rescue us we need to ask for help, realising our need
 - so he showed through the whole Old Testament period how our own efforts to sort the world out fall short... showed sin, showed how obedience (10 commandments etc) was ultimately impossible
 - God also promised a rescuer...
 - stage was set for the Saviour, God's own son, Jesus...
 - to live as we should live
 - and to die in our place on the Cross
 - so we can be rescued, changed, transformed, have hope and a new beginning
- That big story is still unfolding amongst us too:
 - the people who have come to faith, the support and care and hope and wholeness of life we experience, at best all point to our place in God's unfolding story of hope, rescue and new life...

Read Jayne's story from Nigeria

- Lets look for and tell one another the story of God at work in us:
 - for we are part of his on-going and unfolding story in our world today