

The Gospel Story

- I. PRELIMINARY SITUATION: Creation of the world and humanity
- II. INITIAL INCIDENT: Eating the fruit/fall of humanity
- III. CRISES: Humanity tries to find it's way back to life and to God
 - A. Tower of Babel, the flood
 - B. Trying to live by the law
 - C. Seeking fulfillment in a variety of other ways, false religions, et cetera
- IV. CLIMAX: Jesus comes as the hero in the story to bring transformation and a return to life. He is killed and then overcomes death, bringing life and gifts to all who will follow him.
- V. DENOUEMENT: Humanity makes a choice to follow or not follow into this new life.

Your Gospel story

- I. PRELIMINARY SITUATION: Your background and history.
- II. INITIAL INCIDENT: When Jesus starts to intersect with your life in some way, bringing the first hints of transformation.
- III. CRISES: What difficulties come between you and Jesus? What prevents (or tries to prevent) transformation in your life?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
- IV. CLIMAX: The big decision: to follow Jesus or not (either in a salvation scenario or every day)?
- V. DENOUEMENT: What has been true of your life since that climax moment (what has been different)? And an invitation to those who are hearing your story for them also to follow Jesus and find life.

Notes on Story Structure

- I. PRELIMINARY SITUATION: Red Riding Hood's Grandmother is sick and her mother sends her through the woods to deliver some goodies with many dire warnings NEVER TO LEAVE THE PATH.¹
- II. INITIAL INCIDENT: Red sets out from home and immediately meets a kind and gentle wolf along the path.²
- III. CRISES:
 - A. The wolf knows grandma well and says that Red should hurry along down a shortcut he knows... that happens to be off the path.
 - B. Red gets distracted by some pretty flowers along the way and wonders if she should stop to get some for Grandma.
 - C. When Red gets to Grandma's house, Grandma is not looking quite herself and Red starts to get suspicious
- IV. CLIMAX
 - A. THE WOLF IS DISGUISED AS GRANDMA AND TRIES TO EAT HER! AGH!
 - B. The wolf succeeds because he is a wily hunter and not afraid to wear an old lady's nightgown to get what he wants.
 - C. A woodsman happens by, figures it all out and chops the wolf's belly open with his axe (very carefully I guess?) to get Red and Grandma out.
- V. DE³NOUEMENT
 - A. The woodsman gathers some rocks and sticks them in the wolf's belly, then stitches him up again. Because he's a woodsman, not a hunter!
 - B. Red learns to always listen to her mother, and she Grandma and the Woodsman enjoy the food her mom sent in the basket.
 - C. The wolf swears off people and decides he will only eat pork from now on.

¹ The preliminary situation might be very complicated in a larger novel or story. Why does Red always wear a red riding hood if she is walking all the time? Why do wolves talk and seem trustworthy at first? Where is Red's dad? Is her mom crazy to send her through the woods like that? Why didn't grandma just move in with them? How hungry does a wolf have to be to swallow people whole? And how huge is he? Or, maybe, how small are these people? Could it be that they are.... rabbits? Protagonists, antagonists, world-building, history, et cetera could all be under this one point.

² Technically, all these things should be done in outline style, with "a" and "b" instead of just writing a sentence after a colon. But hey, relaaaax, we're all artists here, man.

³ It's hard to get word processors to put French punctuation in. But I also hate typos. AHHH IT'S A CRISIS!