

## Disciples are Storyformed.

**“Rabbis in first century Galilee storyformed their disciples.”—Jeffrey Garner.**  
Storyboarding and storying was the primary teaching tool of a rabbi.

**Disciples got their Identity from story.** The Philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre suggested that the only way to answer the question, “What am I to do?” is to ask, “Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?” The peasants and blue-collar workers that Jesus disciplined were people of the Story of God. This informed their culture and behavior, their value and their decisions.

**Rabbi Zeblun,  
“Today we live, but  
by tomorrow, today  
will be a story. The  
whole world, all  
human life is one  
long story.”**

Historian Thomas Cahill says, “God gave the gift of history and story to Abraham and Abraham introduced it to his family and his family passed it on to the human race.” Abraham invented the concept of history (linear story). This storying tradition was so sacred that God called a tribe of people to preserve the story from one generation to another. By the time Jesus arrives the hamlets and villages were filled with people who found their sense of identity, their purpose and community, their family and heritage in God’s story. God took a people who were already formed by story and then he did the unthinkable he became the story, the news, the good news.

**Values came from Story.** Early followers of Jesus did not have a set of abstract values they committed to memory. They had a story—God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself—and out of this story they valued the Gospel. The news of what God had done for them in Jesus Christ upended and reversed their value system.

**Stories were moral simulators for the rabbis.** “Neither empirical principles nor moral principles motivate anyone. What motivates people are stories, narrative accounts of situations in which choices must be made and stands taken.” -- Harvey Cox. Jesus spun out parables and told stories to demonstrate the present reality of something close to the heart of the Jewish tradition called the reign of God. Jesus forced people to think for themselves by using stories or what we might call case studies. Jesus was a rabbi. He never delivered an easy answer to a hard question but, in time-honored rabbinical fashion, asked another question or told one of his unforgettable stories. He would not allow people to escape the responsibility of thinking and making their own decisions.”