

“We train disciplemakers...”



Stick
Figures to
the rescue
— p. 2



The ability God
requires
— p. 3

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

*Making Disciples
Naturally* Podcast
&
Richard Spann's
blogs are found at
KansasNavs.org

**Stick Figures as a way to
communicate the Bible**

— page 2

**Remember, Rest,
Refresh**

— page 2

**What ability does
God want?**

See the article
on pages 3 - 4

*We pray you will have a
blessed and meaningful
Thanksgiving and
Christmas. Next
newsletter will be
in January!*

A heart softened through cinnamon rolls!

From the moment we met, she projected an image of an angry, judgmental woman. There was not much that she didn't have an opinion on, and that opinion was typically negative. Beside her door read a sign: "No politics, No solicitation, No religious literature."



We had heard from others that she was cranky and didn't want to interact much. However, there was one thing that we learned she did have a favorable attitude toward ... cinnamon rolls! Over a period of three years, we just listened to her, served her, loved her, prayed for her, and, yes, made cinnamon rolls for her. Then we saw a softening of her heart.

First it was some Christmas cards that some organization sent her. She called my wife up and said, "I have some cards you might like, since you're religious." That opened up a conversation about her beliefs and fears. (She believes we all just return to the earth when we die.)

Next, it was an invitation to celebrate my wife's birthday by going out to eat breakfast with her. That was a major event — to be invited into her world! We don't know where this will lead, but are praying for more opportunities to show God's love to her, including sharing the plan of salvation at some point.

Who in your world needs to be loved and listened to this season?

(Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible. "The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® <http://netbible.com> copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved")

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us (because it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’) in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.”

— Galatians 6:13-14 (NET Bible)

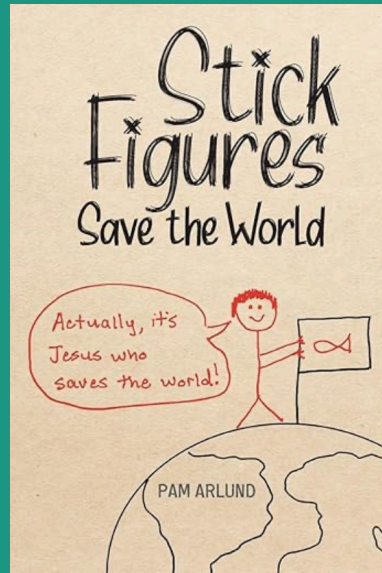
Stick Figures Save the World

by Pam Arlund, Pub. William Carey Publications, March 29, 2022

This little booklet is written in a light-hearted and encouraging style. It is full of helpful illustrations about the use of stick figures in the sharing of the Gospel and Biblical stories.

The author, Pam Arlund, PhD is a linguist/translator serving with the ministry *All Nations International*. She has been a field missionary in Central Asia and now lives in Kansas City, MO. Her heart is to clearly communicate the truths of scripture in a way that anyone can understand.

She covers some basic principles of using stick figures such as keeping the main goal in mind, keep the same character looking the same within the same illustration and, most importantly, keep the stick figures basic. That way *anyone* can do it!



She covers the use of stick figures in 1:1 meetings as we share Bible stories as well as in a larger group, such as a Bible study or Sunday School class.

The author discusses Discovery Bible Studies, which are frequently used in settings where language is a challenge or there is reduced literacy. She goes over the typical story arch (beginning, middle, climax, conclusion/ending) and helps us understand the importance of making our story-relating clear.

Perhaps one of the most helpful parts of this book is her listing of which Bible stories to tell/illustrate. She points out the importance of telling stories that connect to people's lives. There is a list of typical issues we might face (financial problems, conflict with a loved one, how to choose a spouse, marriage issues, conflict with children, growing old, stress, uncertainty about the future) and then lists a variety of Biblical passages that one can use to answer these issues. That would be a helpful resource whether or not we are inclined to use stick figures!

Goads and Nails

(excerpt)

By Richard Spann

Rest, Remember, Refresh

— Lorne Sanny

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 125-128)

Fatigued. Overworked. Exhausted. Stressed Out. These words and others similar to them describe the human condition in which many people live. Day after day, work and toil take precedence in the lives of many. They fail to take advantage of the provision the Lord made for us at the completion of His creation – the Sabbath day of rest. He rested after the completion of His work, and that day was set apart for mankind to find rest as well. The early New Testament church celebrated this day of rest following the completion of the work of Christ, thus marking Sunday as the day of rest under the New Covenant. Over the years since then, various attempts have been made to alter this day given to us by the Lord. The communist regime abolished Sunday as a day of rest, but conditions deteriorated so severely that it was reinstated by Stalin. Napoleon established a ten-day workweek but had to go back to a six-day workweek. I was privileged, along with seven other men, to listen to Lorne's thoughts on this day at a retreat in Colorado Springs some years ago. The three things he mentioned about this day were that it was a day to rest, to remember, and to refresh.

Rest involves a cessation of usual activities. It may, and often does, include other activities, but those in which we may find relaxation and enjoyment. It is a time set apart for mankind to leave what it normally does the other six days – regarded as work – and participate in that which is restorative to the body and spirit. It implies not only physical rest, but emotional and spiritual rest as well...

Lorne also commented that this day given to us was one in which we were to remember. The Ten Commandments were given twice, once in Exodus and again in Deuteronomy. In Exodus 20:8, we are told to rest because of creation. This day is set apart for us so that we may remember to worship and praise because of creation...

Rest. Remember. Refresh. These are the words by which Lorne would have us understand the gift the Lord has given in setting apart this day for us. The Lord says to us in Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." It is in our rest that we experience His rest...

In Christ, Richard Spann

The Ability God Requires by Richard Spann

*"The only Ability that God requires
is our Availability"*

I have heard this phrase from a number of sources over the years. It embodies significant truths in two areas. The first and most obvious is this: We need not be wise by the world's standards, nor do we need to be educated, refined, wealthy, or have positions of influence and authority. Indeed, scripture seems to indicate that these may represent obstacles to God working in and through us. The reason of course is that we may trust in what God has given us rather than in God Himself.

The main force of this statement to me has always been the magnitude of the significance of simply being available to the Lord. We are familiar with His invitations repeated throughout the New Testament; "Come and see", "Come unto me", and "Come and drink," which initiated relationships with Himself. What is arresting, however, is the power and extent of transformation that takes place from this one act of simply making yourself available to the Lord.



To illustrate this transformation, I would like to refer you to one of the most remarkable individuals in all of scripture. This person is mentioned only three times in scripture. In each of these occasions, this individual is found in the same position in relationship to our Lord, specifically, at His feet.

In the first instance, after helping her sister Martha with the essentials of preparation, she chose to make herself available to the Lord. In the KJV, it says "also sat at his feet", meaning that she assisted in the necessary preparation for the meal. Her sister, who was focused on further things that she wanted to do, complained to the Lord that Mary wasn't helping her. The Lord's reply is stated in Luke 10:42; "but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her." He did not say several things. He said one thing is needed. Simply spend time with me. Make yourself available to me. I will take responsibility for everything else. I will do everything in you and through you. We have every reason to assume that this choice of availability was a continued priority on the part of Mary.

(Continued on next page)

"Follow-up is personal. It must be done by someONE; not by someTHING. For it to be effective we must set the pace. We can't permanently sell something we don't make time to get into our lives."
~ Dawson Trotman, Visionary Founder of The Navigators ©. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/24943-Dawson_Trotman

The Ability God Requires (Continued)

And what was the effect of the choice of this woman to make herself available to the Lord? We see her again, at the death of her brother, yet at His feet in an attitude of trust and worship. And on the third occasion, we see her again at His feet, demonstrating an act of worship with a costly fragrance, preparing His body for burial. In so doing, she manifested a closeness and sympathy with the Lord that exceeded that of any other person, including the twelve disciples. All of these mentioned above, the trust, the worship, the sacrificial gift of perfume, had their beginnings in the choice of availability to the Lord.



What does this say to our lives? Fundamentally, if we want to reflect our Lord and represent Him, we must spend much time with Him. Seven minutes a day may be a start; but if that is the end, we are woefully short of glorifying Him. In II Corinthians 3:18 (KJV), we have a promise from God, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” To

behold Him we need to be available to Him. Availability is God’s method of transformation. We cannot be transformed if we are not available. Our unavailability to Him slows down that process. Our availability to Him allows it to proceed at His direction and at His speed.

Hebrews 2:1 states that “We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.” This means that we do not remain static in our Christian lives. We are constantly becoming more like Him, or less like Him, as a result of our availability to Him. The day is rapidly approaching when each of us will be available to Him, and He will be available to us every second throughout eternity. We need to anticipate that Day by following the example of Mary, who chose what is better, and sat at His feet.

“The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation.” ~ Charles Spurgeon, British preacher, author, evangelist (1834-1892). Quote found at <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/280420>