

Story Listening as Pastoral Care

“Listening as Pastoral Care” All of us have a calling to be part of God’s caring ministry. An opportunity to develop better listening. This leads to better care of those within your community. Learn some new skills. (Kim K)

Question: If you could give a summary of the reason why people leave Church and potentially give up their faith, but not necessarily so, what would that summary look like?

Dr John Savage and others through Calling and Care – Lab 1 wrote of the reasons for leaving the Church.

People leave because of “A private cluster of anxiety provoking events”

Having experienced this there is a cry for help – by far this is verbal

Then there is “anger”

Finally there is a sense of hopelessness (about one-third are like turtles who inwardly blame themselves for the failure and dropout)

Or there is a sense of helplessness (about two-thirds are like skunks who will blame others for the loss)

Once the cluster is in place the person will confirm their leave with 6-8 weeks of non-attendance. The change will be complete.

One of the keys to reversing this process is simple – it’s called – listening (that doesn’t necessarily mean finding a solution)

John Savage made a startling claim about the success of this program “Calling and Caring” for the young. He claimed that it would take one visit for each year that the person had left, and that if this was done using the listening skills that he outlined, you would have a 100% success rate in helping them to return. It is not quite as successful with older people.

Listening is much more than just hearing words – it involves all of our senses.

We receive information through

- Taste – 1%
- Touch – 2%
- Smell – 4%
- Hearing – 11%
- Seeing – 82%

We give information through

- Words – 7%
- Tone – 38%
- Body Language – 55%

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We don't always give the same message through these different means. When we do it is called congruence. When we don't we have a problem.

Eg. When we tell our partners we love them very much while looking at our watch
Any others?

Some of the skills that you could learn will involve other senses apart from words.
That maybe for a later time.

The skill I wish to share with you today is Listening or more particularly "Story Listening"

What are you listening To – Story Types

1. Re-Investment/Drop-Out Stories
2. Rehearsal Stories – history, child-hood, past
The first sentence is often the most telling – I don't know what to tell you?
3. "I know someone who" Stories
4. Anniversary Stories
5. Transition Stories
 - Ending
 - Confession
 - New beginning(could include – divorce, retirement etc)

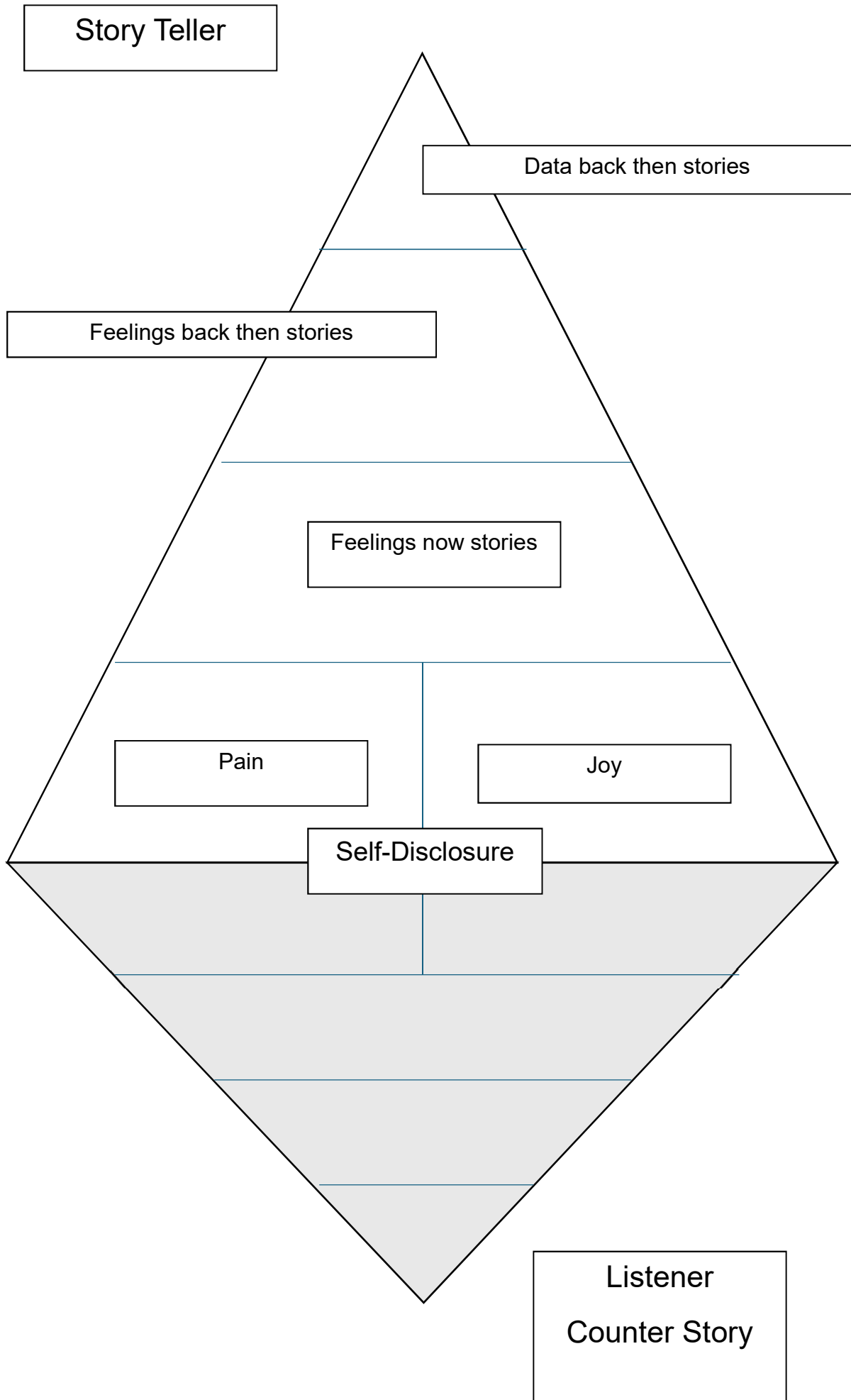
What are listening For

1, Repetitive Words and Themes – these will come until you get the message.

That theme is an opportunity to delve into their journey and to walk away with them.

Journeying with a Veteran – Hand over to Pastor Royden Blackwell

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