

# **Coming to Know the Sacred: Storytelling, Youth and Authentic Theology**

by Frank Rogers

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CLAREMONT, Calif., USA -- When I was young, I had a youth minister who told stories. I cannot tell you much about what I learned in high school or confirmation class, but his stories are as vivid to me still as this morning's breakfast.

So when I became a teacher, I followed suit. I enlivened my lectures and classes with stories. And I quickly noticed how attentive my students became when I moved into a narrative mode; indeed, they were not only attentive, they remembered the stories and the conceptual material surrounding them.

Why are stories so powerful? And how can they become a source for vital spiritual formation and social empowerment with young people?

Once more, I find myself pulling a story out of my own experience to demonstrate what narrative can do:

I once worked with a group of 11 teenaged boys who lived in a  
**[SNIP – End of preview.]**