

How to Use Backstory with Soularium

Backstory is a tool that allows you to communicate God's story (the Gospel) through dialogue. Think of it as a conversational guide rather than a presentation. **Backstory** is best used to continue your conversation **after** using **Soularium**. (You can order additional booklets at CruPress.com)

After you've finished your *Soularium* conversation, you can say something like this:

Thanks for sharing your story with me. Would it be OK with you if I shared how I believe God's story intersects with your story and mine?

If the answer is yes, show them the *Backstory* booklet and say:

This is called Backstory, and it highlights themes from all of our stories, and shows how our stories connect with the larger story of life.

(If they don't have time, you can give them the booklet to read on their own.)

Then turn two pages, and read aloud in its entirety the page that begins:

"There are seven billion people in the world."

Reading Through Backstory

1. **Read aloud the black pages**, beginning with the **white text** (the summary statements), followed by the **gold text** (the Bible passages). To make things more interactive, you could ask them to read portions of the text.
2. To facilitate discussion of the content on the black pages, **use the questions (Q///)** and other content on the opposing white pages. Besides listening well to their answers, feel free to share your answers. It is a conversation after all!
3. Use the gold strip background content sparingly. Encourage them to read this later.
4. When you get to **07 Reunion**, be sure to **cover the "Your Thoughts?" section carefully**. It's important for them to consider the questions: "Is it true?" and "Do you need Jesus?" If they believe it's true, and if they express that they need Jesus, then go on to the next page.
5. Read the **"End of Story, Or Beginning?" page** (except the gold headings) and pause after asking: **"Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?"** If yes, ask if they'd like to pray the prayer right then (silently or out loud). If not, look to continue the conversation, explore why, and give them the booklet to read over on their own.

Remember, it's a conversation, not a presentation. Ask questions and listen well!
Send feedback on your experience to Soularium@uscm.org