



Eva Grayzel

Motivational Storyteller

How To Pray

by Eva Grayzel

I'll never forget being wheeled away from my husband and mother through large double gray doors bearing a diamond-shaped yellow sign reading "no visitors beyond this point." Dressed in a thin cotton gown, on a cold metal gurney, I was wheeled into my parking spot alongside other patients coming in and out of surgery. Doctors and nurses were dashing around as I lay there at 8am for my 9am surgery slot.

At noon, I called over a nurse. "Excuse me, I'm sorry to bother you but my surgery is supposed to be 12 hours long and at this point, they'll be operating on me at midnight. Can I reschedule for tomorrow?"

"Oh honey," she said, "Don't you worry about it, they do this 'awl' (NY accent) the time? Now, do you want a magazine?" At that moment, the frustration simmering deep inside began to erupt. Why didn't my dentist know what was staring at her on my tongue! Why didn't the oral surgeon question the first biopsy!

I took my frustration out on this nurse. "Do you know, I may never speak articulately again. I may never swallow normally again; tomorrow, I may not recognize my own face! And, you are asking me if I want a magazine?" She backed up, apologized and walked away. I had nowhere to direct my frustration but upwards. When you are sick, you pray, whether you believe in a higher being or not.

I looked up and wailed inwardly, "How could you do this to me?" I stopped myself remembering wise words of a friend who said 'when you're angry, you're weak.' I wanted to be strong! I looked right back up and said, "Thank you for doing this to me and not to my children."

I lashed out again, "But why stage IV?" Again, I stopped myself. "Thank you for doctors who give me hope."

"Why my tongue?" I had been a professional performance artist, an interactive storyteller. Why my tongue?

Once again, I stopped myself. "Thank you for taking one-third of my tongue and not one-third of my brain." When I started to think this way, I felt strength well up in me. I looked my cancer in the eye and said, "You are not going to squat your ugly face in this vessel because I am going to fight."

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY

There is something magical in a great story; imaginations are exercised, hearts are stirred, and new thinking emerges. This story is designed to be a quick, easy read with a valuable message, providing readers a motivational lift.

- Positively influence your day by treating yourself to an uplifting message.
- Share this story with co-workers. Discuss and bond with your team over core values.
- Read this story to children at bedtime or in a car to promote healthy communication.

GENERATE NEW THINKING AND INITIATE DIALOGUE BY ASKING THESE QUESTIONS:

What's the lesson to be learned?

How do you see yourself in the story?

If you could change anything in the story, what would it be?

How will this narrative change what you do or think?

Who would you share the story with and why?

AFTER READING THE STORY WITH CHILDREN, TRY THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

Role-play/act out the story. Include simple props (hats, scarves).

Reword the core message of the story in rhyme.

Pick a holiday or a birthday and make a tradition of sharing a story.

Ask an older relative for personal story related to the message. Start a collection of family stories.

Record any personal stories that arise from these family activities.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL: WHAT'S YOURS? SHARE AND CREATE CONNECTIONS

Who influenced your life and how?

What is your love story?

What is your greatest fear?

Who would you like to forgive or receive forgiveness from?

What would you do differently with a second chance?

ABOUT EVA GRAYZEL: SPEAKER, SURVIVOR, STORYTELLER

I call myself a Motivational Storyteller because every story I share, whether on a big stage or in a small group, is thoughtfully crafted to educate, entertain and inspire audiences.

This is just one of many stories available to you on EvaGrayzel.com. I would love to hear how you used the story and if it facilitated communication. If you are looking for a story on a particular subject, don't hesitate to ask.

Happy Storytelling!

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