

## TELL A STORY!

From the January 16, 2019 NCCW Member Call led by Jane Carter

Tell a *short* story at your next monthly member meeting. Everyone is expecting a report—a story will surprise and probably delight them. Be sure it has a moral, a message, you want them to remember....but don't mention that part right away. Just say you read or heard a great story you'd like to share.....

Afterwards, ask the group how the story might apply to CCW. Encourage members to brainstorm and share in small groups and then with the larger group.

Or, use the story as a basis for some personal reflection by giving them something to think about and take to prayer.

### The Fight of Two Wolves Within You

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life:

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy.

"It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil—he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you—and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Here are a few thoughts you might offer, to tie the story to the NCCW Mission. You can use them all at once, or one at a time. Each of them could provide an opportunity for discussion or reflection.

INCREASE your SPIRITUALITY----because If you Feed your FAITH, DOUBT and FEAR will starve to death and sin will decrease!

INCREASE your SERVICE---because when you feed others, the **true hunger** in you will be satisfied.

INCREASE your TOLERANCE---because if you feed **positive acceptance**, bigotry and hatred will have no place to grow.

INCREASE your commitment to a Culture of LIFE—because if you feed and promote and advocate for pro-life initiatives, the culture of death will have fewer followers.

INCREASE your LISTENING—because if you work to understand others, **you** will see things in new ways.

INCREASE your AWARENESS—because if you continually strive to learn more and observe more, your impact will be far greater.

**Be sure to include the fruits of small group discussions in your closing prayer at the meeting!**

Here are two more quick and easy stories you might want to use and share at a meeting.

### THE FROGS

As a group of frogs was traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a **deep** pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was **no hope left for them**.

However, the two frogs decided to try. It appeared that they ignored what the others were saying and they proceeded to **try and jump out of the pit**. Despite their valiant efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they **should just give up**. That they could not jump that high. That they would never make it out.

Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up, lay down and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again and again he tried, even though he kept falling back. The crowd of frogs yelled at him to give up and stop trying.

But he jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, **“Did you not hear us?”** The frog explained to them that he was very hard of hearing. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

**Moral of the story:** Words can have a big effect on other’s lives. They tear down or build up. They encourage or they thwart. They bring smiles or tears. Think about what you say before it comes out of your mouth. It might just be the difference between success and failure, life and death, blessing and sin.

**Suggestion:** Make a list of positive words of encouragement that you will commit to using more.

### THE ELEPHANT’S ROPE

A gentleman was walking through an elephant camp, and he noticed that the elephants weren’t being kept in cages or held by the use of chains.

All that was holding them back was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs and a small peg in the ground.

As the man studied the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn’t just use their strength to break the rope and get away. escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but they didn’t even try!

Curious, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape. The trainer replied;

**“when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.”**

The only reason that the elephants weren’t breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn’t possible.

**Moral of the story:** No matter how much a situation or a person tries to hold you back, continue to believe that what you want to achieve is possible. Believing you can succeed is the most important step in actually achieving anything.

**Reflection:** What small ropes are holding you back from being your best? Moving out of your comfort zone? Thinking “outside the box”?