

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever tried to read through the Bible? List challenges that stand in the way of people completing a cover to cover reading of the Bible. What blessings do you hope come through your study of THE STORY?

Take 2 minutes to think of your favorite Bible story. (It's ok if you don't have one yet!) If you're willing, share it with the group and explain what fascinates you about this story.

WHY? – THE REASON FOR OUR STUDY

Read the passages below. Use them to explain the value of studying God's Word.

Psalm 78:1-7

¹ O my people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
² I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter hidden things, things from of
old—
³ what we have heard and known,
what our fathers have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their
children;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our forefathers
to teach their children,
⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Therefore everyone
who hears these words of
mine and puts them into
practice is like a wise man
who built his house on the
rock. ²⁵ The rain came
down, the streams rose,
and the winds blew and
beat against that house;
yet it did not fall, because
it had its foundation on
the rock. ²⁶ But everyone
who hears these words of
mine and does not put
them into practice is like a
foolish man who built his
house on sand. ²⁷ The rain
came down, the streams
rose, and the winds blew
and beat against that
house, and it fell with a
great crash.”

Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵ Let the peace of
Christ rule in your
hearts, since as
members of one
body you were
called to peace. And
be thankful. ¹⁶ Let
the word of Christ
dwell in you richly
as you teach and
admonish one
another with all
wisdom, and as you
sing psalms, hymns
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in
your hearts to God.

THE STORY – THE METHOD OF OUR STUDY

Read the **Preface** of THE STORY (*page ix*). Note the following:

- ✓ THE STORY is comprised of excerpts of Scripture arranged in chronological order to tell the overall narrative of the Bible. THE STORY is not the entire text of the Bible. Page 494 includes a chart of all of the Scripture portions included in THE STORY.
- ✓ The *italicized* sections of THE STORY are written by the editors to summarize the portions of the Bible that were omitted.
- ✓ The text of THE STORY is from the New International Version (2011) of the Bible. We are more familiar with the NIV 1984. As you read take note of places where the translation is different than what you are used to.

THE STORY - THE PURPOSE OF OUR STUDY

Read John 5:39-40 (Jesus is speaking to a group of Jewish people) **“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”**

- 1) Perhaps the title of this book, THE STORY, is ill-advised. It may give the impression that the Bible is just a story, akin to a fictional children’s story. What do Jesus’ words remind us about the Scriptures and the story that they relate?
- 2) To help you keep your focus on Christ and God’s grace, consider using the following questions as you read through THE STORY:
 - ❶ What is God saying? (Seek understanding. Jot down questions as you read and bring them to class)
 - ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
 - ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
 - ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

FOR NEXT TIME

Chapter 1: Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It
Bible Reference: Genesis 1-4, 6-9.