

THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

BIBLE OVERVIEW

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JANUARY 5, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1, 1:26-28, 1:31

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:4-5, 3:15

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

John 1:1-3, John 1:14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Revelation 5:9-12

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Revelation 21:1-5

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What are some key characteristics of the story of your life to this point?

SERMON RECAP

The Bible is not only an authoritative source for human history in general. But the Bible is also the only authoritative source for redemptive history.

- The Holy Spirit pulls back the curtain and reveals to us not just what is happening in the world, but why these things happen. Our purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

The Bible explains Creation, Redemption, Sanctification, and Restoration. It describes:

- Why we are here (Creation),
- What's wrong with us (The Fall),
- How we fix it (Redemption),
- How we change (Sanctification),
- To what we have to look forward (Restoration).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read the referenced Scriptures aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What do you see about God and man in Creation, Fall, and Redemption in Genesis passages?
 - What do you notice about Jesus and the Holy Spirit in John and Acts passages?
 - What do you hear and see about God and about Restoration in Revelation passages?
 - How would you summarize God's plan as described in these passages?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Reference the Genesis passages:
 - For what purpose did God create us? What is the core problem of the human condition?
 - How does The Fall separate us from God and His purpose for us and why can't we fix it?
 - Why do we need to be redeemed and how is Jesus the focal point of redemptive history?
2. Reference the John and Acts passages:
 - What is the significance of the truth that Jesus is God in human flesh?
 - How does the Holy Spirit enable us to be gospel witnesses to the ends of the earth?
3. Reference the Revelation passages:
 - What will our posture be before the Lord when we are truly restored?
 - How is everything recreated during restoration and what about those who don't believe in Jesus?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Living as fallen beings
 - What struggles do you face as you try to live out God's purpose for your life?
 - How can your Church Group help you to be more true to God's purpose?
2. Becoming sanctified beings
 - How does your reliance on the Holy Spirit help you to become who you are in Christ?
 - How can your Church Group support your faithful obedience?
3. Striving toward becoming restored beings
 - How does the hope of eternal restoration fuel your joy today?
 - How can your Church Group pray for your endurance amidst joys and struggles?