

God's Story/ Your Story

Gospel and Grace] GET THE
God's Story/ Your Story] GOSPEL

Reading the Word] GROW
Breathing in Jesus] IN

Worship and Upbuilding] GATHER
Serving and Calling] AROUND

Family] GO
Going] WITH

God's Story – The Story

The gospel is our invitation into God's story. We're invited to leave our individual story, and enter God's – the only story that will ever matter!

An Epic Story – Justin Buzzard

Each one of us has a story that we believe, one we use to make sense of our lives and our world. Some of us draw our stories from family legacy while others try to escape the story of their family. Some live the stories of pursuing success, fame, or wealth. Some of us attach ourselves to the dominant storyline of the city we live in, chasing pleasure in Las Vegas or power in Washington D.C. We may not be aware of it but it is true. We can't live without a sense of story ... Jesus is part of a much larger story, an epic story. This story has all the makings of the best, truest stories – conflict, tension, and drama. It comes with that essential, "Uh-oh, how will this be resolved?" ingredient that all the best books and movies have.

Mark 1:14 and Matthew 4:19-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "follow me, and I will make you fishers of men [and women]."

Q – What did Jesus mean by saying, "The time is fulfilled?"

Q – What did Jesus invite Simon and Andrew into?

The same invitation given to Simon and Andrew is extended to us! Through Jesus, we are cast members in God's grand story – all centered on Jesus. Jesus makes us members of *his* story in three ways:

- **Salvation** (*Follow me*) – Eternal life worshipping Jesus in his presence forever!
- **Sanctification** (*and I will make you*) – Being changed by Jesus to be more like Jesus.
- **Sent ones** (*fishers of men*) – Helping more and more people meet Jesus!

Q – Where (or in what area) is Jesus calling you to follow him right now?

The 6 Acts of Human History

- ACT 1 – **God** / God the creator is outside of his creation. He is and always was. He is the Great I am.
- ACT 2 – **Creation** / God made humans in his image to both enjoy him and be enjoyed by him.
- ACT 3 – **Rebellion** / God's creation sinned and rebelled against him. So too have you and I today.
- ACT 4 – **Rescue** / God sent Jesus (God the Son) to rescue everyone who would call upon his name!
- ACT 5 – **Already, Not Yet** / God's Spirit lives inside us, but Satan has not yet been destroyed.
- ACT 6 – **Home** / God promises to bring his entire family home to dwell in perfect harmony with him.

The 4 G's – Tim Chester

As characters inside God's story, we get the luxury of living within **God's sovereignty**. God is in complete control at all times! Therefore, **because**:

- 1) **God is Great** – we don't have to be in control.
- 2) **God is Glorious** – we don't have to fear others.
- 3) **God is Good** – we don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction.
- 4) **God is Gracious** – we don't have to prove ourselves.

Q – Which "G" stood out to you the most, and why?

Pray – Thank Jesus for transforming us into characters inside *his* grand adventure. Thank him for being great, glorious, good, and gracious.

God's Story/ Your Story

An Adventure

In the book *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins is discreet, quiet, and predictable. Yet one day, he is seen sprinting out of the Shire. When he is asked why, he responds excitedly, "I am going on an adventure!"

We too are invited out of our "me-centered" lives orbiting around our happiness into a grand adventure of following and enjoying Jesus.

Your Story - Inside His Story

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Through Jesus, we are **dead** to our old lives – shackled by selfish sin and shame. We are now **alive** with Christ, fueled by his life and actions! Shame, guilt, selfish ambition, bitterness, fear, lust, hatred, the love of money, and the desire for power all died with Christ on the cross. You are no longer defined by sin, but the life of Jesus himself! We are inside his story!

John 8:12

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Q – How is Jesus shining his "light of life" in your life right now?

We Need A Plot – William Kilpatrick

The same impulse that makes us want our books to have a plot makes us want our lives to have a plot. We need to feel that we are somewhere, making progress. There is something in us that is not satisfied with a merely psychological explanation of our lives. It doesn't do justice to our conviction that we are on some kind of journey or quest, that there must be some deeper meaning to our lives than whether we feel good about ourselves. Only people who have lost the sense of adventure, mystery, and romance worry about their self-esteem. And at that point what they need is not a good therapist, but a good story. Or more precisely, the central question for us should not be, 'What personality dynamics explain my behavior?' but rather, 'What sort of story am I in?'

You are in God's amazing story. God values you and deeply loves you. Jesus is the shining light of your life.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (ACT 6) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

God has a great story for you to be a part of!

Write Your Story (answering these questions):

- 1) Who were you before you met Jesus?
- 2) How did Jesus call you to drop your nets and follow him?
- 3) How is Jesus changing you to become more and more like him (*I will make you fishers of men*)?
- 4) Which of the 4 G's do you need to more deeply believe to more freely and joyfully live inside Jesus' story?

Share Your Story / Spend 10 minutes sharing what you wrote down.

Pray – Spend a few minutes praying over one another.