

# HIS STORY. YOUR STORY.

## WEEK 1: GOD'S STORY

DISCOVERING THE OVERARCHING STORY OF THE BIBLE



**BIG IDEA:** We need to know God's Story in order to share His Story.

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 31 & Sunday, February 4

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:1-16

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME NEW GUESTS

**PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES:** A prayer notebook will be passed around each week for us to record our requests and praises. Leaders – explain that prayer requests and praises during this series will be done in the notebook provided. We will pass around this notebook with the date written at the top and we will write down our requests. Challenge them to come up with a prayer request for themselves – what do they need to see happen in their own lives during this study? You can pray over the notebook at the close of each class and email them to the group. This is a great way to keep up with the requests and see the answers to prayer!

### OPENING QUESTION

**What is your favorite type of movie or book?** Raise your hand when I call it out – mystery, drama, rom-com, action, super-hero, thriller, historical fiction? What else?

*God's Story contains just about all of these elements – all nonfiction of course. For the next 7 weeks we are going to look at God's Story and our part in His Story. We need to know His overarching story in order to share His story!*

[ WATCH VIDEO ]

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the four parts to God's story?** (Creation, Sin, Jesus, Re-creation) Practice saying them out loud together.
- 2. How does knowing the big picture of God's Story change your relationship with God and others?**

Let's read about when sin was first introduced into the story.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Genesis 3:1-16 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” <sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

What does this passage teach us about God? (Possible answers: He is holy, He has set clear instructions and boundaries, there are sobering consequences to sin; He will provide a savior, and will set creation right again.)

What does this passage teach us about humanity? (Possible answers: we are proud, we want to know as much as God, we are disobedient, we look for loopholes, we blame others for our sin, we will face consequences for our sin, we need a savior, etc.)

But there is also hope found in these verses. Did you know the first mention of the gospel is found in these verses? Can you find which verse it is? (Genesis 3:15 is known as the protoevangelium or the “first gospel” because it introduces the theme of a Savior who will redeem humanity from the curse of sin. The Savior is called “the Seed” (KJV) or “offspring” (NIV) of the woman. So even here, at the very beginning of the story, we see God’s plan to send Jesus to rescue us from sin.)

## APPLICATION EXERCISE

**The 3 Circles Exercise.** Leaders- familiarize yourself with this evangelism tool by watching this instructional video. Practice teaching it and drawing it. A pamphlet will be found in your LifeGroup folder or use the attached file "Steps to Sharing God's Story Using 3 Circles" to help you. Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/227782208>

Leaders say: The most important thing we can do is share God's story and share the Hope we have in our Savior. Here is a helpful tool I want to walk you through to help you share God's story with others. It is called the 3 Circles. Hold up the pamphlet and walk them through the script, drawing it on the board as you share.

\*Be sensitive to people in your group who may have never accepted Jesus. Offer to talk with anyone after class who has never asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

**SUPER SUNDAY REMINDER:** Next week wear your team gear (most spirited LifeGroup will win a free breakfast) and bring a breakfast item to share.

**CHALLENGE:** Download the 3 Circles app for free at the "Life on Mission" app then you will have this tool with you wherever you go! Practice it on your kids, friends, co-workers and be open to sharing it with someone.

If you purchased the Your True Story book, follow along with this reading plan starting February 4. There are short, powerful daily readings that will greatly enhance this series. (Hold up the book, explain how the author is a longtime member of our church. Books are available in the atrium for \$15 and you get a reading plan bookmark with it. Encourage your group to participate in the daily readings! It is not required for the series but will add to it.)

## READING PLAN

**2/4:** Day 1    **2/5:** Day 2    **2/6:** Day 3    **2/7:** Day 4    **2/8:** Day 5    **2/9:** Day 6    **2/10:** Day 7

### COMMENTARY

If Genesis 3 were not in the Bible, there would be no Bible as we know it. Why? Because the rest of Scripture documents the sad consequences of Adam's sin and explains what God in His grace has done to rescue us. By grasping the basic truths of this important chapter, you can better understand Paul's discussion of justification in Romans 5, his teaching in 1 Timothy 2:8-15 about men and women in the church, and his explanation in 1 Corinthians 15 of the future resurrection.

Adam's disobedience brought sin into the human race, but the Bible gives us no explanation for the existence of Satan and evil before the fall of man. The record in Genesis 3 is not a myth. If the fall of man didn't actually occur, then the Christian faith is built on fables, not fact, and Jesus Christ suffered needlessly on the cross. From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22, the Bible records the conflict between God and Satan, sin and righteousness, and pleads with sinners to repent to trust God.