



The Story

What is your part in the story?

God is writing an amazing story from creation to restoration.

He created you to be a part of that story to worship Him, serve Him, and enjoy relationship with Him.

By joining God in His story, you will find forgiveness, purpose, and satisfaction as you come to know the Author of life.

September - Creation

Scripture:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” Genesis 1:1

“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Psalm 90:2

In the beginning, God created everything to be perfect. There was no sickness, disease, or sadness. Everything lived in harmony.

In the beginning, God spoke and everything came into existence. By His command, the entire universe was created and filled with a dramatic display of galaxies, stars, and planets-including Earth, on which was a perfect garden of paradise called Eden. Of all the beauty He created, the masterpiece was a man and a woman. God made Adam and Eve in His image to reflect Him. They were created with grand purpose of worshipping Him by loving Him, serving Him, and enjoying relationship with Him.

God - The story begins with God, who has always been. He has always existed, and He has always existed exactly as He is now. If it seems confusing, it's because He's beyond what anyone can fully comprehend.

Song: [Indescribable by Chris Tomlin](#)

Questions:

1. Describe a time that you were in awe of God's creation.
2. What beliefs or habits inhibit you from being a good steward of God's creation?
3. Since creation was meant to glorify God, how can you love and care for creation the way He does?
4. Read [Psalm 24:1-2](#). What way can you take small steps to share with others about God's creation?

Prayer:

Precious Father, thank You for allowing us to benefit from the beauty of all that Your hand has created. O Lord, our Lord, Your majestic Name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. The highest heavens and the earth and everything in it all belong to You. We are blessed to be the recipients of all the beauty that surrounds us and testifies of Your awesome glory. May all our thoughts be pleasing to You, for we rejoice in You, Father. Amen.

October - Creation

Scripture:

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” –Genesis 1:27

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Song: [God of Wonders by Third Day](#)

Questions:

1. Who, in your life, has been a great representation or image-bearer of God's mercy, unconditional love or hope?
2. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
3. As an image-bearer, what is one thing you feel challenged to do or share with someone else?
4. Colossians 1:27 says, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” How does this verse encourage you to become, and help others become faithful servants of Jesus Christ?

Prayer:

Holy Father, we, declare that You have made us only a little lower than Yourself and crowned us with glory and honor. You have given us charge of everything You made. But, we will not boast in our authority, but in the fact that our names are registered in heaven. Sovereign Lord, You made the earth by the power of Your Word and preserve it by Your Wisdom. Holy, holy, holy are You the Lord of Heaven's Almighty; the whole earth is filled with Your glory! In Jesus Name, Amen.

November - The Fall

Scripture:

“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one.’” Romans 3:10

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.” Romans 3:19

By God’s design, all of creation was in harmony and was exactly the way it was suppose to be. During this time there was no pain, suffering, sickness or death. There was complete love, acceptance, and intimacy between God and man, between Adam and Eve, and throughout creation. But something tragic happened...

Man rebelled against a loving God and believed Satan’s lie. Sin entered into the world and into every human heart. Everything is now distorted and broken. Everyone is guilty before God.

Disobedience

Adam and Eve were far from being equal to God, yet He lovingly placed them in charge of all He had created in Eden. He gave them the freedom to make decisions and govern the earth with one rule: not to eat fruit from a specific tree. One day, a fallen enemy, a fallen angel named Satan, wanted to overthrow God so he took the form of a serpent and lied to Adam and Eve. He deceived them into thinking a God was not good and did not have their best interest in their mind. As a result, they knowingly disobeyed God. In rebellion, Adam and Eve ate the fruit , deciding that they, not God, would determine right and wrong.

Consequence

The consequences of their actions were devastating! Like a virus, sin entered into all of creation and into the hearts of Adam and Eve. Sin, suffering, and pain were passed down from generation to generation; all of creation was distorted from its original design. We have all read or heard the stories of war, poverty, disease, greed, and scandals that plague our world today. Those are all a result of sin.

Need

When we think about the perfection and love that existed at the beginning of creation, we realize “we are far more flawed and far more sinful than we can dare imagine.” Just think of the grudges we’ve held, the lies we’ve told, the thoughts we’d never dare say aloud. An honest glance into our own hearts reveals the truth: We are all guilty. Everyone has sinned, and the ultimate consequence, even worse than physical death, is eternal separation from a loving God, in terrible misery and unhappiness. Because of all this, we need to consider the questions: Can anything be done? Is there any hope?

Song: [The Struggle by Tenth Ave. North](#)

Questions:

1. Where, in your life, are you experiencing brokenness?
2. What do we put in place of God's Word to fill a void or need? Describe a time that God's Word spoke truth's hope into your life in the midst of fear or sadness?
3. When it comes to your faith in Christ, would others say that what you believe matches how you live? What is a small step of faith you can take to either receive or extend God's grace this week?

Prayer:

You are a good Father. You never change, grow weary of us, or tired of helping us. If Your Word says You care, then we choose to trust in that care. We place every burden we carry in Your hands today. We will not worry for one moment. We refuse fear, for our Father cares for us and He is well aware of every critical issue we are facing today. We will not be discouraged. We will not be moved off of this strong stance of faith. We will stand our ground and declare that God is good! You care for us! Teach us to trust You more and more every day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Songs: [Jesus I Need You by Hillsong Worship](#)
 [Fear is a Liar by Zach Williams](#)

Questions:

1. What is your greatest challenge or worry at this time?
2. What does surrendering to God look like to you? If “Flesh is trying; spirit is dying”, in what area(s) of your life do you find yourself trying and sensing the Holy Spirit prompting dying, or surrendering to Him?

Prayer:

I pray that as each of us comes to a point in our lives where we dare to ask You to reveal Your will for us, You would put us in a place of acceptance of what You reveal to us. It may not be what we want, but it will surely be what we need in order to live a life fully invested in You. Help us to realize that anything You bring into our lives and anything You reveal to us is for our good. Give us a spirit of acceptance and a heart open to Your movement in our lives. Allow us to let Your love surround us and cast out any fear or doubts. Help us to live in love with You, accept Your will for our lives and give us the proper response to Your revelation. May we trust in the way You push us to go. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

January - The Rescue

Scripture:

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteousness, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.” 1 Peter 3:18

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” Galatians 1:3-4

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.” John 6:47

Jesus, who is God, came to rescue people by his life, death, and resurrection. By Faith alone in Him, anyone can have their sins forgiven and enjoy life with Him.

Promise Made

God removed Adam and Eve from Eden as a result of their sin but left them with a promise of rescue and hope. He promised them one of their descendants would someday rescue mankind from sin. Over the next centuries, God prepared the way for this person who would become the Savior of the world. Exact details of His birth, life, and death were recorded in the Bible many centuries before His coming. In fact, the whole Bible ultimately points to this one person as the focal point of all human history. His purpose in coming was “to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10) So who was He?

Promise Kept

The promised Savior, simply, was God. God became human in the person of Jesus Christ almost 2,000 years ago, fulfilling all the predictions in the Old Testament. Jesus’ birth was miraculous since His mother was a virgin. His life was unique; He perfectly enjoyed and obeyed God without sin. This ultimately led to His agonizing death on a cross as He willingly, obediently, and sufficiently died to pay for the sin of mankind, according to God’s plan. In the greatest display of mercy and grace the world has ever known, Jesus’ life and death became a substitute for all who would trust in Him. The perfectly innocent died to rescue the hopelessly guilty from sin and Satan.

BUT.... The grave couldn’t hold Jesus. Three days later, Jesus emerged from His tomb, fulfilling His earthly mission to defeat sin by dying on the cross and to defeat death by rising from the dead- just as God promised. Forty days later He returned to heaven where He reigns as the rightful King. But, the story doesn’t end there...

Rescues by Faith Alone

Faith is simple trust in Jesus Christ alone to save you. It means instead of believing you can rescue yourself from the consequences of sin, you transfer your trust to the rescue He purchased for you by His death. Your allegiance is now to Jesus, The King. Those who place their trust in anything other than Jesus will find themselves forever separated from the loving God who gave His one and only Son to set us free from the bondage of sin. This painful separation is called Hell.

The moment you trust Jesus Christ, you become a CHILD of God and His Spirit begins to LIVE inside of you. You have become part of His story. The more you grow in your relationship with God, the

more of His story you will begin to see and understand in your life. All of your sin, past and future, is forgiven, and you now find total acceptance before Him. When you begin this relationship, Jesus promises to be with you through all the UPS and DOWNS and in the joys and difficulties of this life. He loves you with an everlasting, unchanging love. And not only has HE promised eternal life, but He came so that you could also experience purpose, fulfillment, and freedom in this life.

Song: [Lord, I Need You by Matt Maher](#)

Questions:

1. What is one of the hardest truths God has shown you about yourself during the past year?
2. Who or what do you sometimes put in the place of God to rescue you? Why?
3. Read Galatians 2:20. What part of your “old self” might God be calling you to let go of? (anger, habits, performance, expectations, etc.)
4. In what small way can you share about hope in Christ alone with someone that needs to hear it?

Prayer:

Father, we are grateful for Your gracious offer to give us a new heart, one that loves You, one that is tender and responsive to Your voice and one that reflects Your love back to everyone in our life. So in faith, we take You at Your word. We receive today a new heart and a new spirit. We will walk with this new heart and care for this new spirit by our commitment to Your Word and by seeking Your face through prayer, worship and fellowship with these women, Amen.

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“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” Galatians 1:3-4

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more of His story you will begin to see and understand in your life. All of your sin, past and future, is forgiven, and you now find total acceptance before Him. When you begin this relationship, Jesus promises to be with you through all the UPS and DOWNS and in the joys and difficulties of this life. He loves you with an everlasting, unchanging love. And not only has HE promised eternal life, but He came so that you could also experience purpose, fulfillment, and freedom in this life.

Songs: [Rescue by Ellie Holcomb](#)
 [Red Sea Road by Ellie Holcomb](#)

Questions:

1. Outside of salvation in Jesus Christ, what is a memorable story of rescue in your life?
2. What feelings, emotions, or actions come to mind in a moment of rescue?
3. As followers of Christ, what does it look like to speak and encourage others to find hope in Christ through our everyday conversations?
4. Who is God placing on your heart & mind to share the hope of Christ with?

Prayer:

Give us a heart like that of Mary's, willing to agree with Your Word, Your promises, and Your intent for our life. With Mary there was no negotiating, no 24 hours to think about it, no keeping her options open. You simply spoke, and she unhesitatingly responded with a Yes. May our soul be transformed into one that instantly obeys you, comes when You call, follows your lead, and believes Your Word even when we can't fully comprehend it, for Your Word is Truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

March - The Restoration

Scripture:

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Everything will be restored to the way that it was supposed to be and those who trust in Jesus will get to enjoy eternity in the new heaven and new earth.

All Things New

For all those who trust in Jesus alone, God has also promised He will make all things new. The new heaven and new earth will be completely free of sin and selfishness—a place of perfect friendship with God, others, and all creation. No more shattering earthquakes, devastating tsunamis or violent storms will plague the earth. No more pain, broken hearts, sickness or death to trouble us. Everything will be restored to the way it was meant to be. The new earth will once again be the perfect home God intended for His creation. God’s original purpose will flourish, as those who trust in His rescue will enter into the grand purpose of worshipping Him by loving Him, serving Him, and enjoying relationship with Him forever.

Forever with God

The most wonderful part of this new world is that we will be with God forever, experiencing complete joy. We will be restored to a perfect relationship with the One who created, loved, and died for us. C.S. Lewis, scholar and children’s author, compared the first step into this new world as “Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

Song: [Our God by Chris Tomlin](#)

Questions:

1. What are you longing for at this stage of your life? (new car, new you, different circumstances, etc.)
2. What is an example of a time when you have experienced God’s restoration or renewal (physically, emotionally, mentally, and/or spiritually)?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9. How might your present longing actually be a form of homesickness for heaven?

Prayer:

Thank You for sustaining us even when we have wandered far from You and thank You that Your steadfast love never ceases and that Your tender mercies are new every morning – You are a great and faithful God. Help us I pray to get a proper perspective on life and I ask that You would restore the joy of our salvation and help us to keep our eyes looking to Jesus. Our feet firmly planted on the road of righteousness and peace. This I ask in Jesus name, Amen.

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Songs: [I Will Never be The Same by Ellie Holcomb](#)
 [Trust in You by Lauren Daigle](#)

Questions:

1. Describe a life-changing moment (positive or negative) that redefined your sense of identity and purpose.
2. In what ways has a past mistake led to your personal growth?
3. How can your personal experience of God’s grace and mercy help you to have more grace and mercy towards others?
4. Jesus said, “I come that they may have life & have it abundantly.” (John 10:10). In what area(s) of your life do you need to more fully experience abundant life?
5. How can meditating on the beautiful future God has for you in eternity affect your attitudes, choices and relationships?

Prayer:

Lord we want to be a good and faithful servant when we stand before Your throne and we know that most, if not all of the good works we have done are likely to be burned up, knowing that we have

been striving in the flesh instead of resting in You and letting Your Holy Spirit live and work through us. Restore to us heavenly joy and inner peace. Help us to focus on the eternal rather than the temporary and from this day forward may we start to live our life in a way that you would have us live, in Jesus name I pray, Amen.

May – TABLE FOR TWO

Questions:

1. What Scripture(s) tell YOUR story? Briefly explain
2. How did YOUR relationship with Jesus become real?
3. What has helped YOU grow in your faith?
4. When/How has YOUR faith been radically tested? What was your reaction to the testing?
5. What spark of hope has God used to encourage YOU?