

BEYOND THE MESSAGE | History is HIS STORY | Week 3

Grace Keeps the Story Going

Reading through the Bible can feel... confusing. It can be difficult to even know where to start or what you're *supposed* to be looking for. So you start with the best of intentions:

"Alright... Genesis. Let's go."

Genesis? Strong start.

Exodus? Still tracking.

Leviticus? You're hanging on... but some of these rules are weird.

Deuteronomy? You've got some questions.

And then... Numbers hits.

And suddenly you're knee-deep in genealogies thinking: *Why does this matter? Should I push through? Is God trying to tell me something through a list of names I can't pronounce?*

Or maybe you go the other direction.

You Google:

"What does the Bible say about anxiety?"

"What does the Bible say about relationships?"

"What does the Bible say about not slapping my neighbor today?"

"Oh... turn the other cheek..." *Yeah... that doesn't feel like anything I want to do for Janet.*

Essentially, we go hunting for answers to the problems in our life. But what we've been learning over the last couple of weeks is this: The Bible isn't random and it's not disconnected. It's also not concerned primarily about solving your immediate problem.

It is one continuous story. God's story. A story of moving people from brokenness into redemption through Jesus.

He is the Author. And yes, you and I are in the story. But we aren't the hero riding in to save the day with main character energy

But that's where a lot of us get stuck. We read our Bible and live our lives like we are the center of the universe and WE try to be the hero. The one getting everything right, perfecting our life, striving and fixing. The problem is we truly don't make great heroes. We get distracted or inconsistent and honestly we are a little selfish. The more we focus on what WE need to do, the easier it is to miss what God has been doing all along.

Restoring.

So this week, as we read, we are going to focus on “What is GOD doing” as one continuous framework.

Because throughout all of Scripture, there’s a pattern:

- God creates.
- Humans fall.
- God redeems and pursues
- Ultimately, God restores.

When you start reading through the Bible in this lens, each story becomes a magnifying glass highlighting the same story He has written before He wants to write in YOUR life too.

READ

Pick any of the stories in Scripture below to move through this framework.

- Joseph’s story (Genesis 37–50)
- Ruth’s story (Ruth 1–4)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)
- The Woman at the Well (John 4:1–26)

DAY 1: WALK THE BASES

Last week we learned that we can’t write our own interpretation into Scripture - so start by walking through the following text.

- **Observation:** What stands out?
- **Interpretation:** What was Paul saying to the Corinthians?
- **Theology:** What does this tell us about God and His character? What does this say about people?
- **Application:** What needs to change in me today in light of what this is saying about Jesus?

DAY 2: HOW DOES THIS SCRIPTURE SHOW GOD’S STORY?

Creation: What was good?

Where do you see things as they were meant to be? Within the story what was the good that God had created?

Fall: What broke?

Where does sin, failure, or brokenness enter the story?

Redemption: Where is God pursuing anyway?

Where do you see God stepping in with grace, provision, or pursuit?

Restoration: What is God making new?

How does God bring healing, purpose, or renewal out of what was broken?

DAY 3: JOURNAL

Which part of the story I read this week feels familiar to my OWN story?

Where am I currently at in the story? Creation? Fall? Redemption? Restoration?

Finish this sentence:

“If God is working in my life the same way He works in Scripture, then maybe He is currently...

PULL IT TOGETHER

Romans 8:28 “He works all things for our good, for those who love Him”

Each story in the Bible we can see repeats the same pattern. This pattern calls us to do two things.

- 1.) Repent - We know that we will mess up AND we know He is faithful and just to forgive when we do (1 John 1:9)
- 2.) Trust God - (Romans 8:28) - God is not a liar and He has shown Himself to be consistent. We trust that if we choose to follow God, repent of our sins, and love Him that He will consistently take our mess and restore it for His good

That is the Good News. That is why your story matters - its a testimony to the greatest story ever written.

DAY 4: WRITE OUT YOUR STORY

Walk through your life using the same framework:

Creation: What was good?

Where did you see God’s design, blessing, or goodness in your life?

Fall: What broke?

Where did things go off track?

Where did sin, pain, or struggle enter in?

Redemption: Where did God meet you?

Where did God pursue you, provide for you, or extend grace even if you didn’t fully recognize it at the time?

Restoration: What is God doing now?

How is God healing, growing, or reshaping your life today?

DAY 5: LIVE IT - HERE'S THE CHALLENGE

You don't need a stage to preach or to write a book. You don't need a perfect ending. Just share one part of your story with someone this week. When we talk about giving testimony, it's sharing our good news with other people. That's OUR role in HIS story. To help set others free.

This week the challenge is to tell one person a part of your story that would help them see what God has done in your life.