



WEEK ONE: THE BEST STORY EVER – Study Guide

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May 18, 2013

We're naturally drawn to a good story. We love heroes, hate villains, and cheer at a great rescue. We laugh, we cry, we identify with the heroes, and we enjoy the entire process. Then we can't wait for the next story. However, the best stories are the ones that give a glimpse of *the* story—the story of Jesus.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) What's your favorite movie (or novel)? Is there a particular character you're drawn to? Why?

Into the Bible

- 2) The Bible is far more than a collection of 66 disjointed books. It's a collection of writings that together tell one grand story of redemption. Like any good story, the Bible has a hero. Look at the language Paul uses in **Colossians 1:13-22** as he describes the person and work of Jesus as He works with the Father. How does this passage show Jesus as the hero of scripture? What actions does it show Him doing?

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- 3) Knowing that you're a part of God's story changes the way that you look at your life. It can even change your perspective in suffering. In **1 Peter 3:14-16** we see a glimpse of how this works. How does Peter say to endure suffering? How does seeing your life as a part of God's story help you do this?

- 4) Think of an Old Testament Bible story and discuss it with your group. How does that story point to Jesus rather than simply teaching a moral lesson? (Examples can include Noah's ark, the Exodus from Egypt, David and Goliath, Hosea, etc.)

How Does This Apply?

- 5) We all tend to see ourselves as the hero of our own stories, and sometimes we let God be a part. We try to fit Him into our stories. Where do you catch yourself doing that? How can you begin seeing yourself as a part of His story instead?

- 6) Why is it good news that we are a part of God's story, instead of Him simply being a part of ours?

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Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) Many people describe the overarching story of scripture (the metanarrative) using four plot movements of the Bible: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration (or CFRR). God created a world that is very good (Creation); man marred himself and creation in the first sin (Fall); Jesus redeemed His church and all of creation through His death, burial and resurrection (Redemption or Rescue); the lives of people who meet Jesus change because of what He has done in their lives, and He will one day restore all things to the condition He originally intended (Restoration). Where can you find all 4 elements in **Colossians 1:13-22**? Where else in the Bible are they articulated? How can you use CFRR to share the gospel with someone?

Additional Resources

- *The Story* (online resource & app available at <http://viewthestory.com>)
A digital version of the CFRR approach to view online or download to your phone.
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
Children's Bible that shows how the whole Bible points to Jesus. Simple enough for children, profound enough for adults.
- *Gospel and Kingdom* by Graeme Goldsworthy
Written by a seminary professor but short and easy to read. Shows how the Old Testament points to the establishment of a kingdom ultimately ruled by Jesus and how to interpret the Old Testament in light of the New Testament.
- *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of The Bible* by Vaughan Roberts
- *Meaning at the Movies: Becoming a Discerning Viewer* by Grant Horner
Great explanation of how stories affect us, and how to watch movies with redemption in mind. Instead of telling you what to watch and what not to watch, Horner helps you understand how to watch film with a Biblical framework.
- *The Story ESV Bible*
English Standard Version of the Bible with guides to help you see how every book fits into the greater narrative, and some tools to help you share the gospel with others.