

# The Big Picture of the Bible

## Session 3: The Central Events of the Bible

### ***Movement #1- Creation and the Fall***

- Story Line: The eternal God created everything beautiful and good, including people. God's children rebelled, sinned, and ran away. God's plan of salvation was launched already in the garden.
- Central Events:
  - Creation
  - The Fall
  - Exile from the Garden
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: God is good and so is His creation...but human sin is real and really destructive!

### ***Movement #2- The Flood***

- Story Line: As human sinfulness increased on the earth, God's holiness and love both went into action. The world is cleansed but Noah and his family are saved.
- Central Events:
  - God's Choice
  - The Flood
  - Covenant with Noah
  - Sin remains!

- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: Sin is pervasive and more costly than we realize, but God's redemptive heart and plan are relentless.

### ***Movement #3- The Patriarchs***

- Story Line: A family of faith (with wonder and warts) is raised up to bring God's hope and grace to the world. God is building a people to be a conduit for His Savior.
- Central Events:
  - Covenant with Abraham
  - Sodom & Gomorrah Judged
  - Abram & Isaac
  - Jacob & Esau
  - Joseph - Egypt
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: God uses ordinary and broken people to do extraordinary and amazing things.

### ***Movement #4- Freedom and Faith***

- Story Line: God sets his people free through signs and wonders (spiritual battle), they are meant to enter the promised land... but a lack of faith keeps them in the wilderness!
- Central Events:
  - Conflict in Egypt - Passover
  - Exodus/Red Sea
  - Giving of Law(s)
  - Wanderings & Tabernacle
  - Cycle of Judges
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: God's desire is to set us free and grow our faith in Him...sadly, our battle with sin often gets in the way of this beautiful plan.

### ***Movement #5- The United Kingdom***

- Story Line: For a time, in the promised land, the twelve tribes of God's people stood united as one nation under a series of kings: Saul, David, Solomon. Though there was tension, the kingdom expanded.
- Central Events:
  - Saul - Why?
  - David's battles and sin
  - Solomon's wisdom, folly, and the Temple
  - Solomon's sons
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: God's vision for one united kingdom of people under His loving rule was a reality but struggled under frail and broken leaders (kings).

### ***Movement #6- The Divided Kingdom***

- Story Line: After Solomon, a civil war begins that divides God's people in sad and painful ways. Eventually, each kingdom is exiled due to rebellion and sin.
- Central Events:
  - Idolatry
  - Pride
  - Other Nations
  - Civil War
  - Israel falls 722 BC
  - Judah falls 586 BC
  - Elijah & Elisha
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: The life of a leader (or any person) can be summarized in one word or statement... let your life be "Good" in the sight of God.

### ***Movement #7- A Remnant, Return, and Restoration***

- Story Line: After 70 years in captivity, the remnant (a faithful few) are released back to Jerusalem under leadership to rebuild a way of life/faitn and a place to live and worship! There are prophets who lead the way!
- Central Events:
  - 70 years in exile and return
  - Nehemiah and the wall
  - Ezra
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: When things look hopeless and faith is waning, never give up...God is still at work!

### ***Movement #8- The Story of Jesus***

- Story Line: God entered human history, lived a perfect life of love, grace, miracles, friendship, and so much more. Then, He died in our place on the cross. Three days later He rose and then He ascended to heaven.
- Central Events:
  - Birth
  - Ministry
  - Disciples
  - Teaching
  - Miracles
  - Death and resurrection
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: The beginning, middle, and end of the biblical story can be summarized in one word, "Jesus!"

### ***Movement #9- The Church Is Born***

- Story Line: The disciples were afraid and in hiding...until the Holy Spirit came in power. Then, the church was unleashed...God started a new movement on the earth...his plan to bring the gospel to the world! Peter, Paul, and many others became part of that plan...including you and me!
- Central Events:
  - Holy Spirit
  - Leadership, Saul/Paul
  - Planting churches
  - Persecution
  - Spread gospel
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: God's plan to bring His love, grace, truth, and message to the world is the building of a vibrant and Spirit-filled people called the Church.

### ***Movement #10- The Church Grows***

- Story Line: God grows the church through mission, communication, and vision...through great trial and pain!
- Central Events:
  - Planting churches
  - Teaching and preaching the Gospel
  - Growing leadership
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: No matter what the world and the forces of hell throw at the church, God's people will continue to bring His message and love to the world.

### ***Movement #11- Christ Is Better and Forever***

- Story Line: Until Jesus comes again, He is still with us. He is better than all that came before and He will win the victory in the end.

- Central Events:
  - Jesus is better
  - God wins!
  - Hang in there
  - The battles
  - The end of the story
  
- A Spiritual Lesson and/or Truth: In this life and for all of eternity, Jesus is Lord, King, and Ruler of all!

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- What was one idea or lesson that really jumped out at you in this class?
- What is one part of Biblical history that you would like to dig into deeper and learn more about?
- What is one life application you can take from something you learned in this class?