November 15, 2026
Title: The Story of The Bible
Scripture: Luke 24:27, Romans 5:12-19
Series: Long Story Short
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron

What's the _____ of the Bible?

What is the Bible? Collection of _____ books written down by _____ authors over _____ years.

The story of the Bible is about God's _____ and _____ shown through creation, fall, redemption, and new creation.

Luke 24:27 ESV
And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

> *"From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible's message is first and foremost about the triune God. It's centered in his name and glory, and how he has graciously chosen to share himself with us—although perfectly complete and satisfied in himself—which results in the praise of his glorious grace and our eternal good."* — Stephen Wellum- https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-story-and-message-of-the-bible/

Where do we come _____
? Creation

What went _____
? Fall

Where do we find _____
? Redemption

Where is history _____
? New Creation

Where do we come from?

Time, Force, Action, Space, and Matter - Herbert Spencer - From the book First Principles (London, 1963), Chapter 3.

Genesis 1:1 ESV
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:27-28 ESV
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

> *"The Bible tells us that we're not a mistake or even just a pleasant surprise. We are wanted. We are the planned offspring of the God of love and he longs to share his life with us."* — (Glen Scrivener, Long Story Short, 26)

God _____ us and His glory and graciousness is shown through His creative works.

What went wrong?

Genesis 3:1 ESV
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Genesis 3:6-8 ESV
So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 5:12 ESV
Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

> *The next time you say something deceitful, hurtful or proud, you cannot say "I don't know what came over me. Nothing came over you. Such sins come out of you. They come from a wellspring that is very dark, very deep and very old. You know it. We all feel it. Adam explains it.* — (Glen Scrivener, Long Story Short, 32)

We _____, it was our _____ from God's glorious and gracious plan for us.

Where do we find hope?

Genesis 3:8 ESV
And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:20 ESV
The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

> *"The hope is held out [in Genesis] that one day the Son would be a second Adam, born to answer the first… . And this second Adam would give us a second family to belong to—God's."* — (Glen Scrivener, Long Story Short, 39)

Luke 2:7-11 ESV
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Romans 5:17-19 NLT
For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God gloriously and graciously provides _____ for humanity through _____.

Where is history going?

Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13 ESV
And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

John 14:1-3 NLT
"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am"

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

> *Of all the world's religious texts, the Bible is the only one that offers hope for these bodies and this world. Other religions may speak of an otherworldly paradise, but they don't speak of the renewal of this creation. Only the Bible speaks of such an earthed and earthy future. And no wonder. Only the Bible speaks of the world loved into existence. Therefore it's no surprise that the story which begins with family love, ends in feasting joy.* — (Glen Scrivener, Long Story Short, 154)

God's glory and graciousness are revealed in His _____, where He will be with us.

The story of the Bible is about God's glory and graciousness shown through creation, fall, redemption, and new creation.

Group Questions 11/15/26
Getting to know you Questions:

1. What's one everyday thing that still feels like pure magic to you, no matter how many times you've seen it?

2. Tell us about a time something started out perfect… and then went sideways fast.

Into the Bible Questions:

1. Stephen Wellum is quoted as saying the Bible is "first and foremost about the triune God." How does keeping God (not us) as the main character change the way we approach Scripture?

2. Forty authors over 1,400 years still tell one coherent story. What does that unity suggest about the ultimate Author, and how does it affect your confidence in the Bible?

3. Look at Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:27-28.

Genesis 1:1 ESV
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:27-28 ESV
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

How does the Bible's opening scene answer "Where do we come from?" differently from a purely random, accidental origin story?

4. The sermon points out that modern culture often borrows the Bible's view of human dignity while rejecting its origin story. Where do you see that tension in everyday life or conversations?

5. In Genesis 3:1, the serpent's first move is "Did God actually say…?" Why is questioning God's Word such an effective (and still common) strategy for leading people astray?
Genesis 3:1 ESV
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

6. Read Genesis 3:6-8 and Romans 5:12.
Genesis 3:6-8 ESV
So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
Romans 5:12 ESV
Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

What does the text show about the immediate and long-term effects of Adam and Eve's choice—both for them and for all of us?

7. Glen Scrivener notes that our sins "come out of" us, not merely happening to us. How does that diagnosis feel both freeing and sobering?

8. Genesis 3:8 and 3:20-21 show God coming toward the hiding couple and providing a covering. What do these details reveal about God's character right after the fall?

Genesis 3:8 ESV

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:20 ESV

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

9. Compare Romans 5:17-19 with the "second Adam" idea. In what specific ways does Jesus reverse what the first Adam did?

Romans 5:17-19 NLT

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

10. John 14:1-3 and Revelation 21:1-4 describe the future home Jesus is preparing. What stands out to you about how "earthy" and relational that hope is?

John 14:1-3 NLT

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am"

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Application Questions:

1. When you open the Bible, do you tend to look for yourself first or for God first? How might shifting that focus change your reading this week?

2. The sermon says we are "wanted… the planned offspring of the God of love." How does believing that reshape the way you see your own worth and the worth of people who frustrate you?

3. Where do you still feel the “marred nature” of the fall most strongly (in relationships, habits, self-talk, or the world’s brokenness)? How does naming it help?

4. Romans 5 says Jesus’ obedience makes many righteous. How does resting in that finished work free you from trying to “earn” your standing with God this week?

5. Philippians says God is at work in you both to will and to work. Where do you need to cooperate with that work rather than just grit your teeth and try harder?

6. The promise of a new creation includes no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. How does that future hope give you courage to face a present hard thing?

7. The Bible’s story is not ultimately about us, yet we find our meaning in it. How can you live this week as a supporting character whose purpose is to display God’s glory and grace?

8. Looking at the whole story arc of the Bible —creation, fall, redemption, new creation—what is one truth from this message you want to carry into the coming week so that God’s glory and graciousness become more visible in your everyday life?

9. To see a visual of how Bible verses fit together, check out this video https://youtu.be/mzQDhimRc4A?is=CCt1PCZ07HWRavOz