

WEEK 1: GOD'S STORY & OUR STORIES

Core Truth: Our deepest identity is found in being part of God's story.

Key Bible Verses:

Jeremiah 1:5 & Romans 14:7-8

New City Catechism: Question 1

Only God can write a story that resonates not just in the power of the imagination or the heart or the mind, but in the very soul.

-Jared C. Wilson

If you could only watch one TV show or movie for the rest of your life, what would it be?

No matter how old we are, we wrestle with these two questions:

1. Who am I? - This is the question of identity.
2. What am I supposed to do? - This is the question of purpose.

“When you know who you are, you know what to do.”

-Shelley Hendrix

Who I am

What I do

1. We all find our identity by being part of bigger stories.

All stories have four parts:

- Beginning (Wheee!)
- Challenge (Oh no!)
- Solution (Whew!)
- End (Yay!)

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2. Our deepest identity is found in being part of God's story.

Unlike every other identity in our story, this identity cannot be shaken or changed.

Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart... I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Romans 14:7-8 - "For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

New City Catechism Question 1

What feelings would you use to describe your trying to make sense of the Bible?

3. There are four parts to God's Story:

- The Beginning: Creation (Wheee!) - Week 2
- The Challenge: Fall (Oh no!) - Week 3
- The Solution: Redemption (Whew!) - Week 4
- The End: New Creation (Yay!) - Week 5

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Discussion Questions

1. Which identities take up most of your attention or time right now? Which is giving you the most energy?

2. How might understanding being part of God's story change your approach those identities this week?

3. How would you describe how sure you are that you're part of God's story? A solid rock, a clay pot, a blossoming flower, a question mark, or an idk emoji 🤷

4. What's one thing you learned today? About yourself? About God?

5. Are there any questions we want to ask Pastor Daryl?