

REFLECTION

Take a deep breath. Open your heart and mind so that you might *surrender* to the Lord and *receive* from the Lord.

Begin by *identifying* the threats to your joy. Are there circumstances that you are facing that might rob you of joy? What worldly temptations or idols threaten joy in your life?

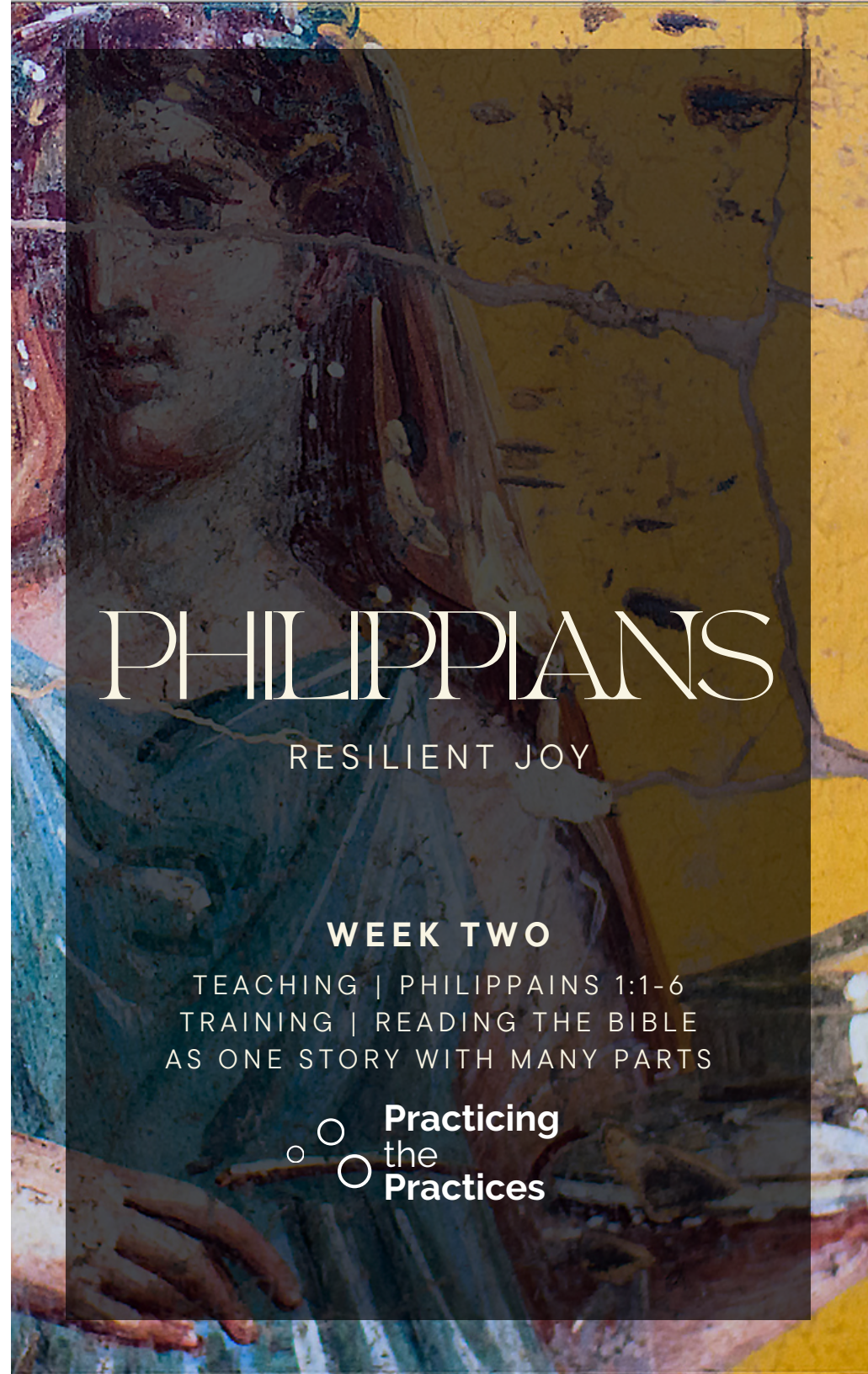
Confess those things to the Lord. Acknowledge your need of rescue and refuge in Christ alone.

Contemplate how Philippians 1:6 might reshape your fight for joy.

I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:6

How might the *full* Gospel story provide you with the hope and resources to face your current challenges with joy and even offer thankfulness and gratitude as an offering or worship today?

Take a moment to *Pray* with hope and gratitude ...



PHILIPPIANS

RESILIENT JOY

WEEK TWO

TEACHING | PHILIPPAINS 1:1-6
TRAINING | READING THE BIBLE
AS ONE STORY WITH MANY PARTS

Practicing
the
Practices

Remember (Week One)...

The Bible was written **for us**, but it is not **about** us.

The Bible isn't a book! (Even though the term 'Bible' comes from the Greek word, Biblos - meaning *book*.)

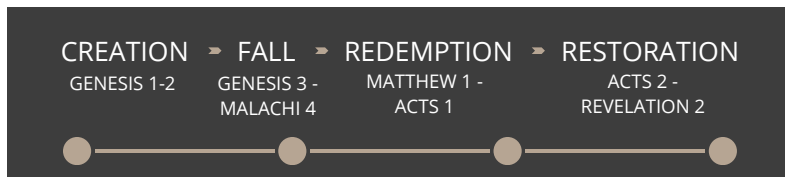
The Bible is a very large anthology - a collection of sacred writings, inspired by the Holy Spirit, penned by multiple human authors, using different literature styles, across multiple cultures, over 1,400+ years!

And yet, the Bible tells ONE STORY.

One Story



The plot in 4 "Acts"



"The full Biblical story is that we were created in God's image, the world that God created was perfect and He loved it abundantly. We were tempted by Satan and sinned, causing a separation from our loving God. Jesus died and rose again to redeem us and now we have the privilege of joining God in the renewal of all things here on earth."

Tyson, Jon; Grizzle, Heather. *A Creative Minority: Influencing Culture Through Redemptive Participation* (p. 27).

One Story with many Stories



The Law, Covenant, Gospels, Church + more!

Within the grand story, many 'chapters', or stories provide a vision and design for human flourishing by the means of grace.

How this helps you read the Bible...

1) It keeps our focus on Jesus.

Every story has a main character. The Bible's main character is God - specifically, as He reveals Himself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ.

If we learn individual Bible stories and never connect them to the one big Story, we put ourselves in the story as if we are the main character. The Bible then becomes a collection of moral lessons to help us along in the life we've chosen for ourselves, instead of people who need rescue, who need a Savior who will deliver us from Satan, sin, and death.

2) It provides us with a better worldview.

We live in a world of competing narratives. What is ultimate reality? We believe the Gospel Story to be the most compelling of all the stories. It gives us a vision for what is **true, good, and beautiful**. As followers of Jesus, we have a story to tell the world.

"An essential part of our theological and missional task today is to tell this story as clearly as possible, and to allow it to subvert other ways of telling the story of the world." - N. T. Wright