



Small Group Guide: Living In The Story (Week 10)

Key Takeaways

1. **We are part of an ancient story** that began in Genesis and will culminate in Revelation
2. **The story has always been about filling the earth with image bearers** who reflect God's character
3. **Israel's story is central to God's plan** and not yet complete
4. **We live in a specific moment** in God's timeline with a specific purpose
5. **The ending is guaranteed** - Christ wins, the serpent is defeated, and we will reign with Him forever
6. **Our present suffering and mission have meaning** in light of where the story is going

Understanding Our Place in the Story

1. The "You Are Here" Moment

- The study emphasized that we live in the "church age" between Israel's rejection of Christ and their future restoration. How does knowing exactly where you are in God's story change how you view your daily life?
- What difference does it make to know that this current age is temporary and leading somewhere specific?

2. Image Bearers Then and Now

- What does it mean to be an "image bearer" who does "what is good and right in God's eyes" rather than our own eyes?

3. The Seed of the Woman vs. Seed of the Serpent

- Throughout the Old Testament, we saw two lines: those who walked by faith in God's promise and those who built their own kingdoms. Which characteristics of the "seed of the serpent" do you see most prevalent in our culture today?
 - Making names for themselves
 - Building their own cities/kingdoms
 - Walking by sight instead of faith

Israel's Role and Our Mission

4. Israel's Purpose and Failure

- Israel was called to be "a kingdom of priests" and "a light to the nations." How did they fail in this calling?

5. The Gospel to the Gentiles

- Read Romans 11:11-15. Paul says Israel's rejection brought salvation to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. How should this reality:
 - Affect how we view Jewish people today?
 - Motivate our evangelism and missions?

The End of the Story

6. The Final Picture

- The study described the ultimate goal: God ruling over Israel, with the King of Israel blessing the nations, filling the earth with image bearers. How does this picture differ from common ideas about "heaven"?
- Why is it significant that the story ends with a "new heaven and new earth" rather than us just floating in the clouds?

8. No More Sea

- Throughout Scripture, the sea represented chaos and the domain of the serpent. Revelation 21:1 says "there is no longer any sea." What does this tell us about the completeness of God's victory?