

**The Story Series  
Before and After  
11/04/23  
Newport News**

**Opening**

**-Each of us shares the same deep desire, to know God and to be known by Him. This series is about reminding us all that the more time we spend in The Story, the more we come to know God and feel known by Him!**

-(talk about the series, the life group...hold up The Story and Small G Guide)

**10/7 - launch series & session #1**

**10/14 - session #22**

**10/21 - session #23 (Pastor Vanessa)**

**10/28 - session #24 (Pastor Justin)**

**11/4 - session #25**

**11/11 - session #26**

**11/18 - session #27**

-even if you can't make the life groups...the resources are readily available online and the video are on YouTube.

**Before and After**

**-If you don't have solid beliefs about what happened before Genesis and will happen after Revelation, you might misunderstand much of what happens in between.**

-(explain your before Genesis beliefs)

-(explain your after Revelation beliefs)

(use phrase "everyone who chooses to give themselves over to his deception...")\_

*-My "before and after" beliefs build a context for understanding everything that occurs from Genesis to Revelation...especially my understanding of my ultimate enemy, Satan.*

-Who are my scary movie people? (What is your favorite?)

-(tell story of going to see The Sixth Sense in 1999 at the Bryd Theater)

## Satan

*-If we are allowing modern film and mythology to shape what we believe about Satan, we won't recognize his schemes designed for our own destruction.*

**-Have you noticed how central Satan has been in each of the chapters?**

- Chapter 1 – The Garden
- Chapter 22 – The Slaughter of Innocence
- Chapter 23 – The Wilderness
- Chapter 24 – The Demoniatic (Legion)
- Chapter 25 – The Betrayal of Jesus by Judas

-14 facts about Satan from logos.com

1. Satan means “adversary” (transliteration from Hebrew)
2. Pride fueled Satan’s origin story
3. Satan’s domain is earth and Sheol
4. Satan rules the nations of the earth
5. Satan commands a host of demons
6. He may not control ALL the demons
7. Satan tried to make a deal with Jesus
8. Satan is on the defensive
9. Satan is a liar by nature
10. Satan has spiritual children
11. Satan influenced Judas Iscariot
12. Satan’s power of death is broken
13. Discord gives Satan an advantage
14. Satan’s defeat is certain and imminent

**-Scripture is continually pointing us to a life that guards us from Satan’s schemes while at the same time reminding us that God always has our best interest at heart!** (meaning what God offers is always infinitely better!)

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Ephesians 4:27-28
- 2 Peter 3:9

## Stay Alert

### -1 Peter 5:8

### -Page 353 - "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

- Jesus is just now speaking clearly with the disciples what is to come
- Peter pulls Jesus aside to correct him
- "Get behind me Satan"
- Satan is there/supernatural needed to see him/2 Kings 6
- *Risk of being overly attached to the earthly existence...leverage for Satan just like it is for Peter in this moment*

### -Page 355 - "They were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him."

- Are you enthusiastic about Jesus?
- (food, buying and selling stuff, the art of film...how about you?)
- But are you enthusiastic about Jesus?
- *The more time you spend expressing your enthusiasm about Jesus, the less likely you'll be distracted by the "shiny object" Satan dangles... (Christianity is an adventure, not a task!!)*

### -Page 358 - "...before Abraham was born, I AM!"

- Jesus claimed to be God...we just miss it because it's uniquely Jewish.
- Their culture always believed in the Messiah...they just didn't realize God Himself was going to come!
- *Is it possible that God Himself is at work in your situation but because it's so different than what you expected, you are believing Satan's lie that you are forgotten!*

### -Page 359 - "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- I think the disciples here are demonstrating incredible courage.
- Matthew 26:56 (they all fled)
- Never forget that when we fail, grace offers us a way home!
- *I'm not so sure Peter and Judas were very different...except that Peter always chose the path of grace to come back to Jesus.*
- How about you? Satan is going to get the upper hand on occasion...does he have the upper hand now?

## **Band**

-Welcome Home Moment