

**The Story Series  
Heaven to Earth  
10/14/23  
Newport News**

**Opening**

-Pastor Justin...12 year work anniversary

-Middle East prayer...

*-Each of us shares the same deepest 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 Study G Guide)

**10/7 - 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**

**Recap – Sin and Forgiveness**

**-We have a sin problem, regardless of where He puts us, regardless of how many chances He gives us, regardless of how many rules He teaches us. But there's hope, because God has a grace promise for our sin problem.**

**-God's plan was never to create a perfect person or a perfect place. His plan was to create a perfect relationship with imperfect people who come from imperfect places!**

**-That relationship is made possible through grace, which is unmerited forgiveness obtained through substitutionary sacrifice...Jesus.**

**Introduction – Heaven to Earth**

-Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2, and John 1:1-14 (Mark omits)

-Isaiah 7:14 (ref)

-Isaiah 53 (ref)

**-From the moment of Jesus birth, even the circumstances leading up to His birth...every moment fulfilled one of the 60 major prophecies found in the Old Testament.**

-Professor Peter Stoner, Science Speaks

The probability that Jesus of Nazareth could have fulfilled even eight of the 60 major prophecies would be only 1 in  $10^{17}$ . That's 1 in **100,000,000,000,000,000**.

That probability is the same as if we covered Texas two feet deep with silver dollars and sent a blindfolded person, heading out of Dallas by foot in any direction being able, on their very first attempt, to pick up one specifically marked silver dollar.

-And even though these prophecies began 1,000 years before His birth...they didn't recognize Him.

## Heaven to Earth

**-John 1:1-5 - the pre-existence of Jesus**

**-John 1:6-9 - the introduction of Jesus**

**-John 1:10-11 - the rejection of Jesus**

**-John 1:12-14 - the grace of Jesus**

*His plan was to create a perfect relationship with imperfect people who come from imperfect places! That relationship is made possible through grace, which is unmerited forgiveness obtained through substitutionary sacrifice...Jesus.*

## Show Up

-Philippians 2:1-7 (ref)

**-Are we willing to show up in people's lives and people's circumstances regardless of whether or not they deserve it, regardless of who is right and who is wrong...are we willing to show up for others the way Jesus showed up for us?**

-Romans 5:8

-(song – pray and listen...)

-Clarify

1. Emotional well being matters
2. Timing matters (joke that it took Jesus a few thousand years)
3. The counsel of others matters
4. Healthy boundaries matter (Titus 3:10-11)

## **Buckle Up**

-rubber bands and watermelon...

**-Have we grown up with too much teaching on God not burdening us when the evidence strongly suggests the contrary?**

*What I see in Scripture is that all throughout the Bible, again and again and again, is God continually asking His children to carry weighty things for Him.*

-(participation – who are people in Scripture whose task or assignment was overwhelming?)

-If you are in a season where it feels like the weight of the world is on your shoulders...would stand so we can gather around you to pray?

-Remember:

1. The devil did it
2. God used it
3. Life required it

## **Open Up**

**-John 1:10-11** -(talk about the intrusion of false expectations that blinded them to Jesus)

-What is the false thinking in me that needs to change?

1. Beliefs that aren't true
2. Opinions that are too narrow
3. Blame that is misplaced
4. Entitlements masquerading as expectations
5. Biases that hinder clarity

## **Band**

-Welcome Home Moment

## **Close**

-Luke 2:14...we have an unrelenting belief in the goodness of God...

-tell Elijah story of the cookie dropping and breaking... "now I have two cookies!"