

**The Story Series**  
**Receiving and Believing, Part Two**  
**07/02/22**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

**-(show The Story Slide)**

**-(show our slide for tonight)**

**-(show three circles slide)**

**Social Media and Following Jesus' Example**

-(set it up as if you are **reading some posts** you found and that you are going to give the name of the person after...)

-Psalm 58

*I hope someone hits you so hard that your teeth shatter in your mouth. In fact, I hope someone breaks your teeth off by pulling them out. I'd like to see your life run out like sewage in a gutter. I hope your life is pointless, meaningless, and amounts to nothing. I hope your life is swept away in a storm and that people's feet will be stained by your blood.*

-Psalm 83

*Destroy all these people who hate me. I hope their lives end up like animal dung piled up on the ground. I hope their lives are so filled with suffering that they are dishonored and whatever good name they have earned will be destroyed. I hope their reputations will be ruined. I hope their lives are filled with terror, that they will be humiliated and then die.*

-Psalm 109

*I hope your boss is wicked to you like you have been to me, I hope someone is always standing next to you accusing you of everything you do wrong, and even if you are innocent, I hope you are found guilty. I hope God ignores your prayers; I hope you die young. I hope someone else takes your job and that you die so your children become fatherless. I hope your children are forced to roam the streets and beg for food. I*

*hope creditors seize all your possessions leaving your family poor and penniless. I hope your descendents are erased from existence.*

-Laments

-(it is a passionate expression of grief or sorrow)

>some questions I'm still sorting out...

- **In prayer (brief explanation)**
- **In person (brief explanation)**
- **In public**

>if my lament is needed for my healing, should it come at the expense of someone else' wounding?

>(talk about my burgeoning beliefs about laments as they relate to Jesus example...shouldn't be "in public" unless I'm ready to engage in the kind of conversations that my lament might provoke)

## **The Children of God**

-John 1:12-13 (notice the text says "children")

**-The original sin in Eden was a "me" sin. The sin at the Tower of Babel was a "we" sin.**

-Genesis 11:1-4 (Bible)

- "us...make a name for ourselves"
- this isn't ALL the people of the earth
- Noah had three sons
- This group is one line of descendents from one son
- birth of many languages
- birth of many cultures
- read verses 6-8 (there is no limit to horrors that come from "we")

*Because of what we believe about the sovereignty and power of God, we know He wasn't intimidated.*

- *This isn't reactionary...neither was Eden!*
- *This is an Imago Dei multiplication moment*
- *The diversity that comes from more Imago Dei helps protect the world from the sin of "we."*

**-(show Babel and Church pic)**

-Acts 2:1-13

*>And one day God knew The Church would be the place where people of all cultures, languages, and ethnicities would come together having been reconciled to Himself through Jesus and take the message of The Gospel to the whole world, through their respective cultures, practices, and languages!*

-(Kevin Grave's book)

-Why am I talking about this...

*>This is one of the reasons I am passionate about City Life being a multi-cultural church!*

*>Because one of the ways I make Jesus known, one of the ways that Jesus is going to be easily found in the 757 is by me making others known who don't look like me...because through their culture, through their story, through their cultural norms...something of God will be revealed to the world that my Imago Dei is lacking.*

**Beginning to Believe and about to Receive**

**-(show image of us and God separated)**

-Thirst, Hunger, and Ache (all ppl for all time)

- John 4:11-14
- John 6:26-27,34-35
- John 3:1-4

*-You are an eternal, immortal being created by God to live and rule and reign forever with Him for all eternity!*

-Our deepest desire is to know God and to be known by Him. (because deep inside we are responding to WHO we are)

**-(show image with cross between)**

>John 1:12-13

**-(show apple and cross pic)**

*-Jesus on the cross is God's answer for the sin that Adam and Eve set into motion.*

*-As you look back over the story of your life, can you **find a moment (use marriage/wedding as moment comparison)** in time when you have made a vow of devotion to Jesus?*

*>can I create this image for you...Jesus like a groom to be is kneeling in front of you right now...*

*>how about we don't wait until the end of the service?*

*-(create a moment of privacy and ask...)*

### **Band/Close**

-Mark 15:16-23 (as a capstone for both sermons...and beyond)