

The Story Series
Sin and Forgiveness
09/23/23
Newport News

Opening

-Here are some sayings I grew up with...

- By the skin of your teeth...
- Birds of a feather flock together...
- Can't see the forest for the trees...
- 6 of one, half dozen of another...
- Let the cat out of the bag...
- Close enough for horseshoes and hand grenades

-How about you?

-how about this one: "*Houston, we have a problem.*"

-If ever there was a saying that encompasses the first 11 chapters of the Bible, this is it!

Introduction

-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 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.

Adam and Eve - a perfect place

-order, harmony, tranquility, life, communion, vibrancy, pleasure, and purpose.

-the two trees and the serpent (will talk on Wednesday my views on these)

-“Houston, we have a problem.”

-banishment and curse

-Have you ever thought that maybe, just maybe, God was a little too rash in his judgment? Maybe, just maybe God should have given them a second chance?

Noah - a second chance

-read from The Story (pages 8 and 9)

- rained for 40 days
- waters prevailed for 150 days
- God sends a wind to dry the earth
- Ark comes to rest on top of a mountain (“came to rest”)
- just over a year later they disembarked

-the perfect second chance...

- temptation from people gone
- temptation from cultures gone
- temptation from places gone

-then Noah grows a vineyard (tell story, explain parallel to Eden)

-“Houston, we have a problem.”

-Have you ever thought that maybe, just maybe, God could have helped them better by giving them a book that spelled out EVERYTHING to do and NOT to do?

Abraham - all the rules

-read from The Story (page 13)

-Abram/Abraham

1. God picks one person
2. God does the impossible (at 100 years old...)
3. **(Genesis 1 again, something out of nothing!)**
4. 400 years later a nation is born!
5. Moses on the mountain...ALL THE RULES
6. Surely this time we'll be good!

-“Houston, we have a problem.”

-(recap...Paradise, Second Chance, now All the Rules)

-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.

-grace = undeserved forgiveness

-undeserved forgiveness > made possible by substitutionary sacrifice

-free will always carries the risk of **relational drift!** (illustration)

-God's plan was ALWAYS to create a perfect relationship...but everyone is imperfect except Him so He needed a perfect plan...grace!

Grace Through Sacrifice

-Adam and Eve are clothed...sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

-Noah's world is cleansed...sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

-Israel's Laws...sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

-Romans 5:12, 18-21

-John 19:23-24 (Exodus 28 describes the robe of a priest, blue and one piece)

-God's grace through Jesus forgives completely and finally!

Band

-Welcome Home Moment