

Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday, September 20, 2020
Beginning Discipleship: Discussing the Meta-Story of the Bible

“Meta” means transcending or overarching. So, the meta-story is the story over all the stories of the Bible. It is the all-encompassing overarching story of the Bible. It answers some of our big questions, the “why” questions. Why did God make us? Why did he make us in his image? What is his purpose in creating us, and therefore what is our purpose as his creatures?

God made us for himself. This is an important point, and one that we often miss. In our fallenness and rebellion we often think that our lives are for us. But that is not the case. We are created, dependent beings. We cannot exist without God. Perhaps more importantly, we need to understand that apart from God we cannot thrive. God is good and made us for his good purpose. His purpose is good for us. The more we trust that reality the better off we are. Because, like Adam, when we fail to trust in the goodness and good intentions of God, we take matters into our own hands. We then make choices that cause us much self-inflicted pain. God made us to be in relationship with him.

God also made us to be like him, to be reflections of what he is like. We were made to reflect the glorious goodness of his character. We were made to be like him in heart, values, and practices. We bring God glory by being like him!

1. In the sermon, we said that Adam and Eve were holy beings. How does that relate to our ability to be like God?
2. The fall into sin radically changed us. It made us unable to be like God. What changed?
3. The problem was more a heart problem than a behavior problem. What does that mean? What happened to our hearts, or, to put it another way, our natures?
4. Why does a change in nature make it impossible for us to fix the problem ourselves?
5. How does that relate to our need for a Savior?
6. Read II Corinthians 5:17. When we trust in Jesus, we are spiritually raised from the dead, recreated in Christ. We are also indwelt by the Spirit, and therefore, given the capacity to be filled and empowered by the Spirit. How does this affect our ability to be like God?
Read Ephesians 4:24. What was our new self created for?

In the sanctification process, God renews his image in us. It is a life-long process of spiritual growth. The goal is for us to become more and more like Jesus, sharing his heart, his values, his practices.

7. Read Romans 8:29. Why is this verse so encouraging for us in this process?
8. It is said of this process, “God changes us from the inside out.” How does that statement relate to Romans 12:2? What motivation does Romans 12:1 point to?
9. Read I John 3:2-3. What will we be like? Why is that our hope? How does it relate to Galatians 5:22-23?

Leaders, please emphasize questions 10 and 11. :

God is constantly on mission in the world. He calls us to join him in his mission. To pursue the right mission and be effective at it, requires once again, that we be like Jesus.

10. Jesus spent the three years of his ministry making disciples. In Matthew 28, he commissioned the Church to do the same. How does making disciples relate to being like Jesus, sharing his heart, etc.?
11. Read II Timothy 2:2. How does this verse present a model for how we as Christ-followers are to pursue ministry? How important is it that we be faithful in this?