



# LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Long Story Short*

Scripture: *Various*

Date: *March 7-8, 2020*

Message: *Looking Forward*

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## —[ LET'S START ]—

Alfred Hitchcock, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg were all film directors that Pastor Dale mentioned in his sermon this week. Who is your favorite film director? What is your favorite type of movie to watch?

## —[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. We have spent the past three weeks going over the story of the Bible. What has been the most impactful part of this series on your understanding of Scripture? What have you learned about Jesus?
3. Read Matthew 4 as a group. This is an important chapter of the Bible as it covers some of the earliest days in Jesus' earthly ministry. What strikes you about the way that Jesus lives in this chapter? What do we learn about Christ's opposition? What do we learn about people?
4. Read Galatians 4:1-7. What does Paul teach us about God's big story in this passage?
5. Look at page 4 in this week's notes. This is the page that Pastor Dale used to tell the story of the Bible in this week's message. The page comes from *The Bible Project*, a great website for understanding the Bible. Take turns as a group explaining the story of the Bible using the chart provided. Tell the story of the Bible one "act" at a time. When we know how to tell the story of the Bible, it helps us grow in our faith and help others grow in their understanding of God's big story.

## —[ LET'S ACT ]—

Think about the people on your Adopt 7 list. Are there some people on that list that need to hear the story of the Bible? Let's take some time to pray for our Adopt 7 this week. Let's pray that God would give us an opportunity to make the long story short for them, sharing the hope of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Scripture.

## —[ SERMON REVIEW ]—

- When Jesus finally appears in God's big story it isn't a minor role! The story is about Him. He is the hero. If he doesn't show up, humanity perishes!
- To understand what Jesus did we have to see the whole story – the Old Testament and the New Testament. One flows right into the other. They are a unified whole. One without the other is incomplete.
- Act 1 of the story is about God and Humanity.
  - God's love is greater than humanity's rebellion.
- Act 2 of the story is about God and Israel.
  - God chose to begin again with a new pair of human beings, Abram and Sarah.
  - God promised that through Abram's seed the whole world would be blessed.
  - Abram's descendants proved to be unfaithful and rebellious. Instead of leading people back to the Creator, they led them into idolatry and immorality.
- Act 3 of the story is about The Prophets and Poets.
  - The prophets and poets announce that one day the Day of the Lord will come.
  - His victorious mission will seem to be cut short. He will die like a criminal, a poor and lowly servant. But death will not be able to keep him down! He will actually conquer death and rise again, become exalted and eventually rule over the nations of the world.
  - Four hundred years pass by and God is silent. Where's this Holy Seed that's supposed to rescue his people and the world?
- Galatians 4:4-5 says, "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children."
- In the Old Testament we discovered that God's story is a good story. In the New Testament we find out that God's story is also a good news story.
- In the Gospels we discover that Jesus is the seed of Abraham that the prophets were looking and longing for! But, he is not what the people expected. He is rejected, crucified and three days after His burial He rises from the dead! He breathes Holy Spirit breath on His followers and tells them to go tell everyone, here, near and far about who He is and what He has accomplished.
- In the Acts of the Apostles Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowers the followers of Jesus to reproduce His presence, power and ministry in the



**ONE EPIC NARRATIVE WITH MULTIPLE "ACTS"**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT**  
39 BOOKS  
1500 YEARS

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
27 BOOKS  
100 YEARS

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES THAT SPEAKS A DIVINE WORD OF HOPE

THE STORY OF JESUS & THE SPIRIT POINT TO HISTORY'S GOAL IN A REDEEMED CREATION

**GOD & HUMANITY**  
HUMANS! WE'RE MADE IN A SIMILAR IMAGE TO GOD!  
VIOLENCE  
OPPRESSION  
GODS IN HUMAN FORM  
A RIGHTEOUS HUMAN WILL DESTROY EVIL

**GOD & ISRAEL**  
ABRAHAM, ISAAC & THE ISRAELITES!  
BLESSING TO THE FUTURE!  
ISOLATION  
EXILE - BABYLON

**JESUS: THE GOSPEL**  
ISRAEL'S GOD BECOMES GOOD NEWS  
THE NEW KING  
THE PROMISED SON OF DAVID  
CRUCIFY HIM!  
THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE!

**ISRAEL'S BIRTH OF THE KING**  
THE HUMAN

**... & ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**  
THROUGH THE SPIRIT THE RISE OF JESUS  
SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN  
... INVITES ALL PEOPLE TO JOIN HIS FAMILY

**LETTERS OF THE APOSTLES**  
HOW THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT KING JESUS  
REACHES EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES  
EXILE IN BABYLON  
SLAVERY IN EGYPT  
OLD HUMANITY THE SAVAGE AGE  
A BETTER HOME  
LIBERATION INTO THE PROMISED ISLANDS  
NEW HUMANITY  
REDEEMED CREATION

**THE PROPHETS & POETS**  
THE FALL OF THE TEMPLE  
THE FALL OF THE TEMPLE  
THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY  
THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY

**THE REVELATION**  
THE SLAIN FLAVIUS IS THE BIRTH OF THE KING OF THE WORLD  
OUT OF BABYLON...  
LEADS TO PROGRESS  
NEW CREATION  
NEW HUMANITY RULES THE WORLD  
LOVE GOD

inspired by the Bible Project

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