

Our Journey, God's Story

What kind of stories are people living in?

Soap Operas

Sitcoms

Dystopian Nightmares

What kind of stories are people *wanting* to live in?

Romantic Comedies

Fantasy Worlds

Fairy Tales

What kind of story does the Bible say we are in?

Epic Hero's Quest!

I had always felt life
first as a story: and if
there is a story there
is a story-teller.
GK Chesterton

Now the story of
Christ is simply a true
myth: a myth work-
ing on us in the same
way as the others,
but with this tremen-
dous difference that
it really happened.
C.S. Lewis

God's Bigger Story unfolds over 5 Acts like a play.

1st Act: the Creation of a good and glorious Universe sets the stage for God's Story. Genesis 1-2

2nd Act: the Fall introduces the evil presence of God's enemies and Humanity's problem. Genesis 3-11

3rd Act: the Formation of Israel unfolds God's Quest for a Successful Solution to the forces of evil. Genesis 12ff...

4th Act: The Coming of Christ leads to God's climatic victory over His enemies! Matthew 1:1ff

5th Act: The Re-establishment of God's Kingdom leads to the spread of God's blessings through the Church. Acts 1:1ff

God's Quest is to fully restore His Kingdom on earth!

Happy Ending: the Consummation of God's Story ushers in the Re-Creation of the entire universe. Revelation 20ff...

God's Bigger Story:

God is overcoming the forces of evil to fully restore His blessings upon humanity and the earth and He is doing so through the re-establishment and expansion of His Kingdom.

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Luke 24:13-35

The Bible says we are living in an Epic Hero's Quest! And God is the hero!

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God's Bigger Story unfolds over 5 Acts like a play:

3rd: Formation of Israel **4th:** Coming of Christ

2nd: Fall of Humanity

5th: Blessings thru the Church

1st: Creation of Universe

H.E.: Re-Creation of the Universe

What is Christ's Way of journeying with people like?

Recognition	Life	Productive	Hit	Journey	Journey	Its
Of	Of	Service &	A	Reflectively	Purposefully	-> ALL
<u>God</u>	<u>Discipleship</u>	<u>Relationships</u>	<u>Wall</u>	<u>Inward</u>	<u>Outward</u>	<u>GOD!!!</u>

Their Journey consisted of...

A couple of nobodies

On a journey home

With the Risen Christ

Listening to him explain

how he fulfills / completes / perfects every OT story!

There is always something missing, lacking, wrong in each OT story.

Where our journey ends
depends on who we
have been listening to

Worried. Wearied. Wounded. Wondering. (what just happened!?!)

Strangely warmed by Christ's words.

From the World's true condition to our own renewed condition

Through a listening relationship with Christ.

As Christ reveals Himself throughout the Scriptures. Suffering -> glory

Our Journey, God's Story Revelation 20-21; Genesis 3:1-9

The Bible says we are living in an Epic Hero's Quest! And God is the hero!

God's Quest is to fully restore His Kingdom here on earth. Happy Ending!!

We have become a part of God's Bigger Story.

We have been invited into God's Greater World.

We have begun a journey with God's Higher Agenda. Become all about God!

Why are so many people uninterested or hostile to the journey? ABC attitude



Talk to the Hand!

Common Attitudes

I don't want to. I'm not going to.
I shouldn't have to!

I do not believe we can know if there is a god.

I'm opposed to what Christianity represents.

I have strong reservations about Christianity.

I'm aware of Jesus, but not interested.

I'm glad it's OK for you but it's not for me.

I have a life of my own that I don't
want to disturb.

What's going on? Original Sin

We are born with.... Not born with a blank slate / tabula rasa

A hole in our soul.

A desire to rule our life.

A belief in our entitlement.

We deserve to be treated specially by life, God and others!!

A bias to move away from God.

Sin will remain in our life
But it does not have to reign in our life.



Calvary's Ministry Profile

OUR MISSION:

Calvary exists...to glorify God by seeking to
win people, **mend** them, **build** them up, and **send** them out.

OUR GOAL:

To help every one in Calvary
love God and love others more like Jesus!

OUR 7 YEAR PLAN (begun April 2017): Have...

- 1 Church 2 Services
- 2 times April 2017 attendance preparation
- 3 Pastoral Staff (& 3 support staff)
- 4 Side-Door Community Ministries
- 50% Trained to share their faith
- 60% in Life Groups
- 7 year mortgage repayment plan

OUR PATH

Connect with God
Find your place
Make a difference
Become more like Jesus

OUR COMMITMENTS:

1. I will support the Testimony of My Church.

- By attending faithfully
- By living a God-honoring life
- By giving freely and cheerfully

2. I will protect the Unity of My Church.

- By relating in love towards other members
- By refusing to gossip
- By responsively following our leaders

3. I will serve in the Ministry of My Church.

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By developing a servant's heart
- By deciding to be a part of a Church Ministry Team

4. I will share in the Mission of My Church.

- By praying regularly for others
- By inviting and welcoming others into my church
- By building BRIDGES into unconnected peoples' lives