

# The Story Devotional Plan 2023

## Chapter 8: Jesus



Welcome to Chapter 8 of "The Story", an exciting journey through the Bible!

Below (and on back) are 35 days of Scripture to use in your time alone with God & to prep for the upcoming Sunday.

**Here are some tips to get you started:**

- For each passage, we encourage you to SOAP the text.
- For each day, we provide a question or statement to help you observe the text in order to apply it to your life. Ask God: "How should I apply this text to my life today?"

*Let's begin!*

### IN THE BEGINNING

#### READ

#### REFLECT

- 09/04: [John 1:1-2](#) How can we know that **v1** is talking about Jesus?  
How can Jesus be with God and be God at the same time?  
What does this say about who God is?  
Read John [17:20-23](#). What does this say about who we are and the mission we have been given?
- 09/05: [John 1:3](#) How did God create the world "through" Jesus? ([1 Cor 8:6](#); [Col 1:16](#); [Heb 1:1-2](#); [Gen 1:3](#); [Ps 33:6](#))  
Do you think this is how God still works in the world today? ([Col 1:17](#) & [Heb 1:3](#))  
How do you need Jesus to *uphold* you and *hold you together* today?
- 09/06: [John 1:4-13](#) According to **v12**, what two things must a person do to become a child of God?  
According to **v13**, who is the cause of a person's salvation?  
Is there reason to believe that the same way you become God's child is how you should live?
- 09/07: [John 1:14-18](#) The perfect Man was "full of grace and truth"? What does this mean?  
Does your personality exhibit more grace or more truth?  
How can you strive to be more like Jesus today?
- 09/08: [John 1:19-28](#) If John was asked, "For what purpose was he born?" what do you think he would say?  
For what purpose do you think God made you?  
However anyone would respond to that question, should Jesus' name be in the answer? Explain.
- 09/09: [John 1:29-34](#) Why did John refer to Jesus as "the Lamb of God"? (See [Exodus 12:3-13](#); [Isaiah 53:5-12](#).)  
What is John the Baptist saying about Jesus in **v30**? (Ref. [Luke 1:24-26](#) to see who was older.)
- 09/10: [John 1:35-51](#) Notice the "come and see" statements. How can you incorporate that into sharing Jesus w/ others?  
What did Jesus mean by His statement in **v51**? ([Gen 28:10-17](#)). What does this say about Him?

### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

#### READ

#### REFLECT

- 09/11: [Matt 5:1-12](#) How many promises are listed in the first **10 verses** of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*?  
How are God's promises crucial to living a life that is "blessed"?  
Which promise do you need to claim to get through the day today?
- 09/12: [Matt 5:13-15](#) Last week in [John 1:6-9](#), we saw that Jesus was the light. Now Jesus is saying that you are the light.  
How can we reconcile those two statements? Where is God calling you to display His light today?
- 09/13: [Matt 5:16-20](#) How do you reconcile [vv17-18](#) (*Jesus fulfills the law*) and [v19](#) (*you should obey the law*)?  
The scribes and Pharisees were very religious. How can you be more righteous than them?
- 09/14: [Matt 5:21-48](#) Notice the places where Jesus says, "But I say to you...".  
Is Jesus changing the law? Or is He doing something else? If something else, what is it?  
Name one way one of these "But I say to you" statements should impact your relationship w/ God.  
Name one way one of these "But I say to you" statements should impact your relationship w/ others?
- 09/15: [Matt 6:1-18](#) What should your motivation be for giving, praying, and fasting? Why is motivation so important?  
Is your salvation conditional on you forgiving others? ([vv14-15](#)). No, so what does Jesus mean?
- 09/16: [Matt 6:19-34](#) What is the best financial investment a person can make?  
How does what you look at impact you and your witness?  
Identify a verse that indicates you must surrender everything to God to be a Christian.  
Is anxiety a sin? Why or why not?
- 09/17: [Matt 7:1-29](#) Fill in the blank: Dealing with your own \_\_\_\_\_ is a strategic way to minister to others. How is that so?  
Can a person be a Christian if he/she does not act like a Christian? Explain.  
Give examples of building your life on the sand. How can you avoid playing in the sand today?

### THE 7 "I AM" STATEMENTS OF JESUS

#### READ

#### REFLECT

- 09/18: [John 6:35](#) Read [vv22-59](#) for context. Why does Jesus refer to Himself as "the bread of life"?  
What does a person need to do to not be hungry? What does a person need to do to never thirst?  
Does this verse only apply to when a person becomes a Christian or does it apply to everyday life?  
How can you apply it to your life today?
- 09/19: [John 8:12](#) Why does Jesus refer to Himself as "the light of the world"?  
What two things do you get if you follow Jesus? What is implied that you have if you don't follow Him?

- 09/20: [John 10:9](#) Read [vv1-10](#) for context. Why does Jesus refer to Himself as "the door"? Contrast [v9](#) w/ [v10](#). Many don't enter the door b/c they think Jesus steals/kills/destroys happiness. Why do people believe that and how is that not true? Where do you need salvation & pasture today?
- 09/21: [John 10:11](#) Read [vv11-18](#) for context. Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the "good shepherd"? If you were a shepherd, would you die for the sheep? What does this say about Jesus' love?
- 09/22: [John 11:25-26](#) Read [vv17-27](#) for context and then read [John 6:40](#). Looking to Jesus automatically gets you your own resurrection. Contemplate how that works. Consider how this truth can be a huge encouragement the more you meditate on it.
- 09/23: [John 14:6](#) Read [vv1-14](#) for context. Is this passage about getting to Heaven? Or is it about getting to the Father? Or is it both? Explain. When you look at the context, is there a possibility [v6](#) is not just referring to becoming a Christian?
- 09/24: [John 15:5](#) Read [vv1-17](#) for context. Why does Jesus say He is the "true vine" in [v1](#)? (See [Ps 80:8](#); [Is 5:1-7](#); [Romans 15:8-9](#); [2 Cor 1:20](#)) What does it mean to abide in Jesus? What does it mean for His words to abide in you? What is the purpose of prayer? What is the most effective way to pray? How can you bear fruit today?

## **HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS**

### **READ REFLECT**

- 09/25: [Luke 9:23-25](#) Is it possible to be "saved" and still be in control of your life? I.e. can you receive Jesus as Savior while refusing Him as Lord? How can salvation be free, but still cost you your life? How might this impact how you share the Gospel with others?
- 09/26: [Mark 10:17-31](#) Does everyone have to give away all their \$\$ to go to Heaven? No, but Jesus told this man to. Why? Why is it hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven? (Notice [1Tim 6:10](#). It's not simply money.) If you asked Jesus that question ([v17](#)), what would He say to you and how would the convo end?
- 09/27: [Matt 8:18-22](#) What specifically was Jesus calling each of these men to give up in order to follow Him? In what way(s) does Jesus give this same call to everyone? Have you ever had to literally give up comfort or family to follow Jesus? Read all of [ch8](#) and notice Jesus displays His authority in 5 situations. Why is this significant to see?
- 09/28: [Luke 14:25-33](#) What did Jesus mean when he said that we should hate our family? (Ref. [Matt 10:37](#)) Once you have persuaded someone to receive Jesus, why is it good to try to talk them out of it?
- 09/29: [Matt 18:8-9](#) What is Jesus saying about the seriousness of dealing sin? Although this is not literally slicing off body parts, what drastic measures should we take against sin? If a person refuses to take drastic measures against sin, what might that indicate re: his/her eternity? What might Jesus be telling you to cut off or cut out?
- 09/30: [Matt 25:14-30](#) What does this parable communicate re: the gravity of loving God and others? God has gifted you with certain talents to serve Him & others. What are they & how are you doing?
- 10/01: [Matt 25:31-46](#) What does this text communicate re: the gravity of loving God and others? God has placed people in your path so you can serve them & Him. Who are they & how are you doing?

## **THE BETRAYAL, ARREST, TRIAL, CRUCIFIXION, & RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

### **READ REFLECT**

- 10/02: [Matt 26](#) In [vv36-46](#), note what Jesus prayed 3x. How can we know there aren't multiple ways to go to Heaven? In [vv69-75](#), Peter denied being friends with Jesus. Why or why not might you have done the same? Are there ways you are currently denying Him? If so, how and why?
- 10/03: [Matt 27](#) List out the appalling acts in [vv1-31](#) that were committed against Jesus. "Appalling" b/c He is God. Then in [v34](#), Jesus was offered wine (w/ gall) but He did not drink it. Why do you think He refused it? In [v46](#), why does Jesus say the first part of [Psalm 22:1](#)? In [v51](#), the curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. What is the significance of it being torn in two? What is the significance of it being torn from top to bottom?
- 10/04: [Luke 23](#) Jesus is silent before Herod ([v9](#)) and He is practically silent before Pilate. ([Mk 15:5](#)) He is also silent before hundreds of soldiers violently abusing Him. ([v11](#); [Mk 15:16-20](#); [Jn 19:1-9](#)) Consider if Jesus' silence is active or passive ([1 Pt 2:23](#)). What would've happened if He retaliated? According to [v43](#), when a believer dies, where does he/she go?
- 10/05: [John 18](#) Note that when Jesus said "I am he" (ESV), "he" is not in the Greek. ([vv4-8](#)) See [Ex 3:13-14](#) and [Jn 8:58-59](#). Why do you think the officers/soldiers "fell to the ground"? Why was Jesus "born and...come into the world"? What did Jesus mean by "truth"? ([v37](#)) Consider how close Pilate was to the answer to his question ([v38](#)). Consider how close we all are.
- 10/06: [John 19](#) In [Jn 4:6-7](#), Jesus was weary and requested a drink. As a man, Jesus became tired and thirsty. But in [Jn 4:14](#), He says, "...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again." In [Lk 16:24](#), the man in Hell was thirsty. In [Jn 19:28](#), why do you think Jesus said, "I thirst"? In [Jn 19:30](#), Jesus said, "It is finished". In [Rev 21:6](#), God says, "It is done!" What is the difference? Notice the end of [Rev 21:6](#)!
- 10/07: [John 20](#) What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection? (See [Rom 4:25](#); [1 Cor 15:54-57](#); [Eph 2:4-6](#); [Col 2:12](#)) Notice that twice ([vv19 & 26](#)) the doors were locked. Why? A month later they are boldly speaking the gospel ([Acts 4-5](#)). What made the difference?
- 10/08: [Matt 28](#) See [v18](#). Describe aspects of Jesus' authority w/: [Dn 7:14](#); [Mt 9.6](#), [11:27](#); [Jn 5:27](#); [Eph 1:21](#); [Col 1:18](#); [Heb 1:2](#). What is the "therefore" there for in [v19](#)? According to [vv19-20](#), how could a small group of believers make disciples of all nations?