

The Story Devotional Plan 2023

Chapter 9: The Church



Welcome to Chapter 9c of “*The Story*”, an exciting journey through the Bible!

Below and on the back are 21 days of Scripture to use in your time w/ 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 questions or statements 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?”
- Click on the following for video overviews of [Galatians](#), [Ephesians](#), [1 Timothy](#), [2 Timothy](#), and [Titus](#).

Let's begin!

NO OTHER GOSPEL

READ

REFLECT

- 11/20: [Galatians 1](#) What is the Gospel? If you were to explain the Gospel just using Gal 1, what verses would you cite? Where do churches today get the gospel wrong? What is the danger in believing and sharing a different gospel?
- 11/21: [Galatians 2](#) How was the gospel being corrupted? What did Paul do “so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved”? (v5) How might God be calling you to preserve the truth of the gospel? (*By the way, if you have never memorized a verse, v20 would be a good place to start!*)
- 11/22: [Galatians 3](#) Which came first: The promise (to Abraham) or the law (to Moses)? Why is this significant? What are the purposes of the law? If you are a Christian, how did the law lead you to Jesus?
- 11/23: [Galatians 4](#) Many people don't become Christians because they want to keep their freedom. According to Galatians 4, how are they grossly mistaken? (*Trivia question: What do you think was Paul's “bodily ailment”? See 2 Cor 12:1-10 & Gal 6:11.*)
- 11/24: [Galatians 5](#) How does a person “walk by” or “keep in step with” the Spirit? How does doing that result in the fruits of the Spirit? Where do you see evidences of or lack of vv22-24 in your life?
- 11/25: [Gal 6:1-10](#) How is bearing one another's burdens fulfilling the law of Christ? See Galatians 5:14. What responsibilities do we have to our brothers and sisters in Christ and why?
- 11/26: [Gal 6:11-18](#) What specifically does Paul mean by ‘the world has been crucified to him’? (v14) What does he mean by ‘he has been crucified to the world’? (v14) How can both of these statements play out in your life today?

LIFE IN CHRIST

READ

REFLECT

- 11/27: [Ephesians 1](#) If you are a Christian... How many blessings has God given you? (v3) How far back in time does God's love towards you go? (vv4-5) How vast is God's forgiveness towards you? (vv7-8) How certain is your guarantee of Heaven? (vv13-14) How great is God's power towards you? (vv19-22)
- 11/28: [Ephesians 2](#) If you are a Christian...

How much did you contribute to your salvation? (vv1-9)
What are multiple reasons God saved you? (vv10-22)

- 11/29: Ephesians 3 Have you considered that we are effective or ineffective testimonies to beings we can't see? (vv10-13).
What does this mean in regards to your private life?
Why is church involvement crucial to really experiencing God's love? (vv14-19)
- 11/30: Eph 4:1-16 This is an incredibly rich passage regarding the purpose of the church. Focus on vv8-15.
Why did Jesus ascend "far above all the heavens"? (v10)
What is the leadership's job? (vv11-12)
The purpose of the church is to look like Jesus. How can that happen? (vv13-16)
- 12/01: Eph 4:17-32 In order to "grow up in every way into" Jesus, we must be "speaking the truth in love". (v15)
Walk slowly through vv17-32, asking God how you can do this in your relationships with others.
- 12/02: Eph 5:1-21 For what reasons did Christ die? (vv1-2). How can you imitate Jesus today?
Why is holiness important? (vv3-14)
What does it mean that "the days are evil"? (vv15-17)
What does it look like to "be filled with the Spirit." (vv18-21)
- 12/03: Eph 5:22-6:24 Where is God calling you to make "the best use of the time"? (*throw back to v15*)
Where is He calling you to submit and serve by the power of the Holy Spirit?
"You cannot know what prayer is for, until you know that life is war." (John Piper)
In what ways are you seeing that life is a war against "the schemes of the devil"? (v11)
How are you preparing for battle and praying for victory?

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

READ

REFLECT

- 12/04: 1 Timothy 3 Consider the qualifications of elders and deacons. Why are these characteristics necessary?
Notice how Paul describes the church in v15.
Consider if there is a connection between what the church is and the importance of these positions?
- 12/05: 1 Tim 4:7-16 Also read 1 Tim 6:11-21. What are the direct orders Paul gives Timothy?
Why are these orders important for this young pastor? What charges are important for any pastor?
- 12/06: 1 Tim 5:1-6:2 Why does Paul address these relationships?
Why is it important for the church to know how to relate to one another in specific & practical ways?
- 12/07: 2 Timothy 2 Write down the charges in vv1-23 and the expectations in vv24-26 that Paul gives Timothy.
Do you think these were only for Timothy or should they be expected of all pastors?
- 12/08: 2 Tim 3:10-4:5 How central is God's Word to the work of a pastor?
What happens when His Word is not paramount?
- 12/09: Titus 1 How many characteristics of an elder are listed? Why is each important?
Why do you think "above reproach" is mentioned twice?
- 12/10: Titus 2 What are the directives Paul gives which categories of people and why? (See vv11-14 for the why).
Which roles and responsibilities apply to you?