

GOD'S STORY

40 STORIES



IN 40 DAYS

We are part of an incredible story that begins with “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” and ends with “Behold, I make all things new.” It’s a story that spans from eternity to eternity. The word “story” is important because over 40 percent of the bible is narrative — an immense, sprawling, capacious narrative.

In both the Old and New Testaments of the bible, story is the primary means of revealing God and God’s way to us. For that we can be most grateful, for story is our most accessible form of speech. There are various reasons for the appropriateness of story. For one, the bible’s honest stories respect our freedom; they don’t manipulate us, don’t force us, don’t distract us from life. They show us a spacious world in which God creates and saves and blesses. Also, story doesn’t just tell us something and leave it there; story invites our participation. We are taken seriously just as we are and given place in his story. God is the larger context and plot in which all our stories find themselves.

For 10-15 minutes a day, this plan will place you right in the middle of this story. Why 40? That is how many days it is from the beginning of school to The Rock’s Fall Retreat.

Time commitment: 10-15 minutes a day for 40 Days

Goal: To present the underlying story of the bible

Questions to ask:

- What is revealed about God in this story?
- What character do you relate to the most in the story?
- What might God be speaking to you through this story?

Other suggestions

- Set aside a time and place where you can meet with God.
- Before each day’s reading, spend a short time in prayer.
- Read slowly, attentively, imaginatively and obediently.
- Use a journal to help unlock new discoveries and process what it is happening or how God may be speaking to you.
- Choose one or two verses and dwell on them for the day.
- Find a friend and share how the stories affect you and discuss any questions you might have.

The Plot Unveiled

- Day 1. Genesis 1: A Book of Beginnings
- Day 2. Genesis 2: One Shining Moment
- Day 3. Genesis 3: The Crash
- Day 4. Genesis 15: The Plan
- Day 5. Genesis 22: Final Exam
- Day 6. Genesis 28: Something Undeserved
- Day 7. Genesis 37: Family Battles

Birth of a Nation

- Day 8. Exodus 3: Time for Action
- Day 9. Exodus 10-11: The Ten Plagues
- Day 10. Exodus 14: Miracle at the Red Sea
- Day 11. Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments
- Day 12. Numbers 14: Open Mutiny
- Day 13. Joshua 24: Home at Last
- Day 14. Judges 2: Disobedience, Defeat
- Day 15. Ruth 1: Tough Love

The Golden Age

- Day 16. 1 Samuel 16: Tale of Two Kings
- Day 17. 1 Chronicles 17: God's House
- Day 18. 2 Samuel 11/Psalm 51: Adultery, Murder, Forgiveness

The Divided Kingdom

- Day 19. 2 Kings 17: Postmortem
- Day 20. Jeremiah 2: National Adultery
- Day 21. Hosea 1, 3: Parable of Love

Starting Over

- Day 22. Daniel 1: In Exile
- Day 23. Ezra 3: Returning Home

Cries of Pain

- Day 24. Isaiah 52: The Suffering Servant
- Day 25. Isaiah 9:1-7 & Isaiah 53: Wounded Healer

A Surprising Messiah

- Day 26. Luke 1: One Final Hope
- Day 27. Luke 2: No Fear
- Day 28. Mark 1: Immediate Impact
- Day 29. Matthew 6: Sermon on the Mount
- Day 30. Matthew 13: Kingdom Tales

Responses to Jesus

- Day 31. John 10: No Secrets
- Day 32. Mark 8: Turning Point

Final Days

- Day 33. John 14: One Final Meal Together
- Day 34. Luke 23:26-56; John 19:16-42: Death Comes
- Day 35. Luke 24; John 20: Resurrection Wonder

The Word Spreads

- Day 36. Acts 1: Departure
- Day 37. Acts 2: Explosion
- Day 38. Acts 9: About-face

The Return of the King

- Day 39. 1 Thessalonians 4; 2 Peter 3: Preparing for the End
- Day 40. Revelation 21; 22: An End and a Beginning