

in all things
PRE-GATHERING BIBLE STUDY #1

INTRODUCTION

What is a movie, TV show, or book that you have seen or read the most? Why do you continue to re-watch or reread it?

Today's Bible study focuses on the idea of story. What makes a story a good story?

LESSON

The story of the Bible contains the same kinds of parts that make for a good story. It has characters, plot, conflict, climax, setting, and themes. It's also a really big story. Lots of episodes over the span of millennia are all connect in one grand story Learning the story takes time, just like it takes time for us to learn other stories we love. As we read and reread or watch and re-watch, we start learning the story better because we see things we didn't notice before. Just like we discover small details and larger themes in the stories we watch on Netflix or read in a book, we will also discover small details and larger themes in the story of God's Word.

As we prepare for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering, the encouragement for us will to be to read and reread and to do it slowly. As we continue to read the Bible, things will appear we may not have noticed before. When you see new things, take note of them. Especially when you see something appear over and over again, take note of it. In future studies, we are going to pay special attention to some of these themes – big ideas that repeat.

What is something you've noticed popping up a lot in the story of the Bible?

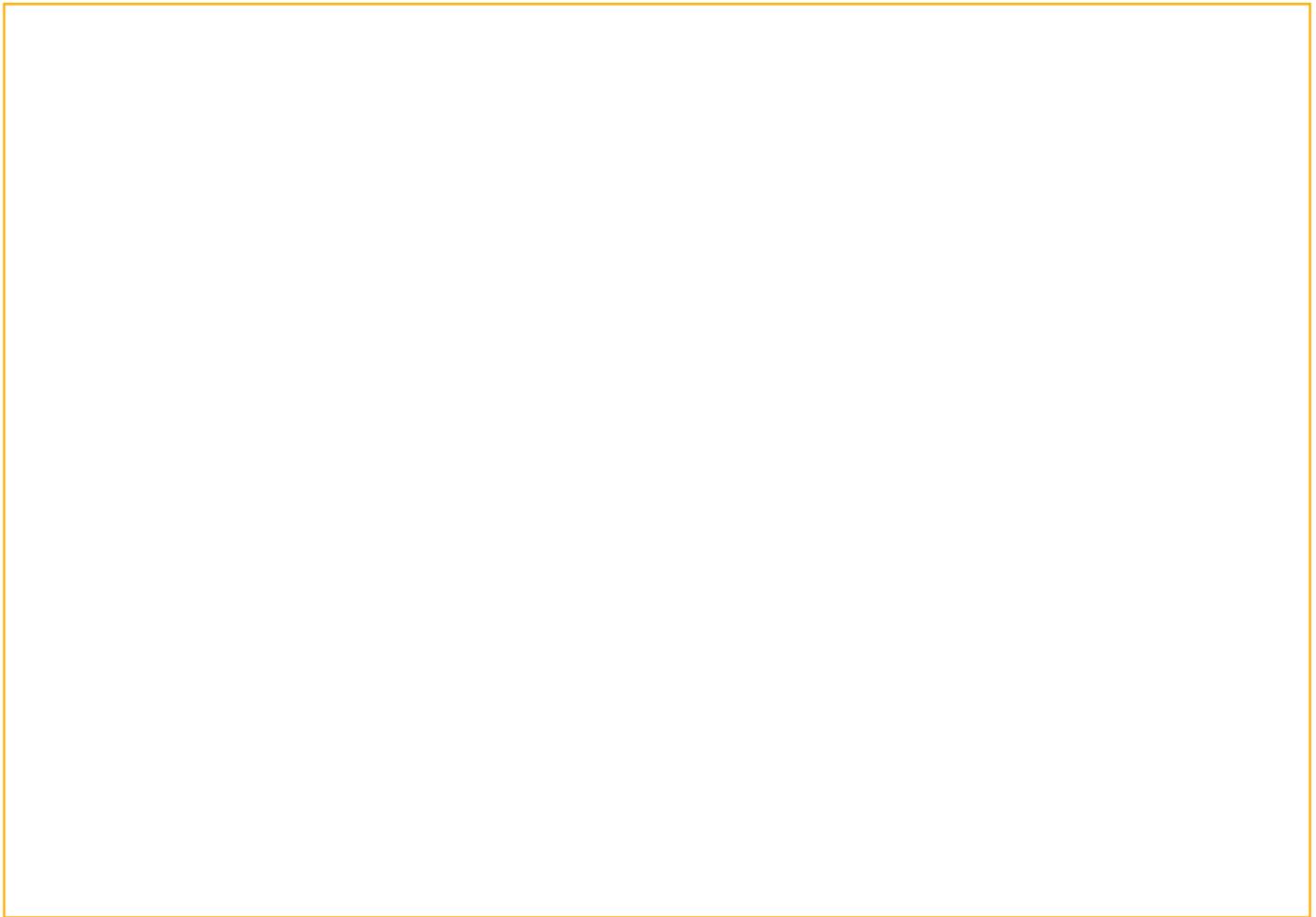
Write your answers or draw them in the box below:

THE STORY OF ALL THINGS

As you are reading the summary as a group, circle or underline important words or phrases.

The God of the universe is a loving God who desires to be in a relationship with his creation. He gives us the “Story of All Things,” which tells us he created the world and made his presence known in it. He stepped into creation himself, walking in the garden and engaging in a perfect relationship with his people. God’s people rejected his word and desired to write their own version of the story of all things with themselves at the center. Consequently, God cursed his creation in his anger over sin and the perfect relationship between God and his people was broken. Yet, God continued to move the “Story of All Things” forward according to his good and loving plan. God chose to be present with his people even in their sinfulness and he promised to send a savior to make all things right. God chose Abraham and his descendants to be God’s special people and through this people God would bless the nations. God set apart Israel to receive the promises and to be the people from whom the Messiah, the savior, would come. God rescued his people from their brokenness through the saving work of Jesus on the cross. His death and resurrection reconcile and heal all things. God continues to transform all things through his word and through the service of his people, the church, until the day he returns. On that day, we will see the fullness of Christ’s reconciliation and reign over all things in his new creation.

Draw an image of Colossians 1:15-20 in the box below



CALL TO ACTION

1. Take time to think about your life in the way of Story. How would you tell your own life's story? Who are the characters? What is the setting? How does the plot unfold, etc.? Write it down and share it with a parent, friend, or someone else close to you.
2. How has Jesus made you a part of the Story of All Things by connecting you to his death and resurrection in your baptism? If you don't know the story of your baptism day, ask someone who remembers to tell you the story.
3. Take time this week to reread Colossians 1:15-20 and Acts 2:22-36 on your own. For bonus points, read them with another member of your congregation. What similarities do you (and maybe this other person) notice this time? What differences do you see? Use the pages in your participant guide to markup both passages, identifying important words/phrases or repeating themes/ideas

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Acts 2:22-36

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.’” ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

Close in Prayer