

The Story of Salvation

Session One

Presentation

- I. Every human heart longs to be part of a story that matters.
- II. Scripture reveals God's plan of salvation for humanity
 - A. 73 inspired books – 46 in Old Testament & 27 in New Testament
 - B. Scripture does not read like a novel.
- III. The Bible Timeline helps to make sense of the story of the Bible.
 - A. 12 Time Periods – Early World, Patriarchs, Egypt & Exodus, Desert Wanderings, Conquest & Judges, Royal Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return, Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfillment, The Church
 - B. 14 Narrative Books – Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 Maccabees, Luke, and Acts
- IV. Catholic Bible Translations

- A. New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE)
- B. Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition (RSV2CE)
- C. English Standard Version Catholic Edition (ESVCE)
- V. When we understand the story of the Bible, our hearts find joy (See Luke 24:13-35).

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever tried reading the Bible in the past? What was the experience like?
- 2. How would you describe the "bigger story" that your life fits into? Has that story changed over time?
- 3. In Luke 24, the disciples' hearts burned as they recognized Jesus in the Scriptures. Have you ever had a similar experience of Scripture "coming alive"?
- 4. "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of

us is necessary" (Pope Benedict XVI). Do these words ring true to you? Do you believe God has written you into His story for a reason? When have you felt that most clearly? When have you struggled to see it?

Call to Action

1. **Read Genesis 1 – 3** in preparation for our next session on June 30.
2. Bring a Bible if you have one.
3. Invite a friend!

Psalm 139

Leader: You know my heart, O Lord. I am never beyond your reach.

O Lord, you search me and you know me,
you know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down,
all my ways lie open to you.

Before ever a word is on my tongue
you know it, O Lord, through and through.

Behind and before you besiege me,
your hand ever laid upon me.
Too wonderful for me this knowledge,
too high, beyond my reach.

O where can I go from your spirit,
or where can I flee from your face?
If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the dawn
and dwell at the sea's furthest end,
even there your hand would lead me,
your right hand would hold me fast.

If I say: "Let the darkness hide me
and the light around me be night,"
even darkness is not dark for you
and the night is as clear as the day.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
— as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: You know my heart, O Lord. I am never beyond your reach.

Leader: All my days are written in
your book, O Lord. Lead me in the
path of life eternal.

For it was you who created my being,
knit me together in my mother's
womb.

I thank you for the wonder of my
being,
for the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul
my body held no secret from you
when I was being fashioned in secret

and molded in the depths of the
earth.

Your eyes saw all my actions,
they were all of them written in your
book;
every one of my days was decreed
before one of them came into being.

To me, how mysterious your
thoughts,
the sum of them not to be numbered!
If I count them, they are more than
the sand;
to finish, I must be eternal, like you.

O search me, God, and know my
heart.

O test me and know my thoughts.
See that I follow not the wrong path
and lead me in the path of life eternal.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
— as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: All my days are written in your
book, O Lord. Lead me in the path of
life eternal.