



SERMON DISCUSSION SHEET

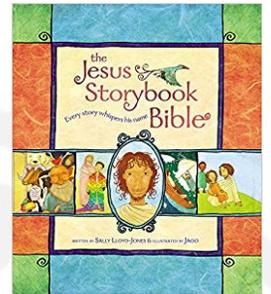
WELCOME

- Take time to check in and offer updates from the week. Encourage everyone to share a highlight or lowlight from their week as well as any prayer requests.
- **Icebreaker:** What was your favorite book as a child, as a teenager, and/or as an adult? Why?

CONNECT & GROW

- **Each week, questions will be provided to help individuals and groups connect with the sermon and grow deeper in faith. The following questions, prompts and discussion points are meant to help guide both personal devotion and small group conversation. Be open and flexible to additional questions.**

- What stood out to you from the message this week?
- Do you have a favorite story in the Bible?
- Have you seen or read the Jesus Storybook Bible? If so, what do you think about the way the story of God is presented in this book?
- In Confirmation at CCC, we encourage our students to recognize God's activity in their daily lives. They share "God Stories". Why do we do this?
- What are some examples of story or storytelling in our world/culture today?
- In the US, the tradition of storytelling has been minimized. How did stories play a role in your upbringing? What role do they play in other cultures?
- Brainstorm different ways we remember stories. Do you use any of these in your personal life or in your family? (ex: Joshua stones, journals, memory books, recipes, Facebook memories)
- A story can be real or imaginative but when you hear the word "story", what comes to mind first: fiction or nonfiction? Why is that?
- (Group leaders: This is a "hard" question for many depending on where they are in their faith journey. Please encourage a safe space for conversation.) Discuss the Bible and stories. Do you take what the Bible says literally (as truth) or is it just "stories"? If as a story, is it less than truth? Does it depend? If so, on what? Discuss.
- Is legacy the same as story? Define legacy and how you view it in your own life/setting.
- As believers, we are often encouraged to share our "story of salvation" with people who do not believe in Jesus. How do you determine the appropriate time/person to share your story? Are there times it may not be appropriate to share your story? Explain why or why not.
- Read the NT Wright excerpt on the back of this page. Do you agree with the author? (Full article available online under Current Series as well as in the worship center on the wall.)



Refer to the back of this sheet for prompts to use throughout the week during chair time.

CHAIR TIME & PERSONAL PROMPTS

GO

The following questions and prompts are meant to be answered individually, throughout the week during "chair time" or times of personal reflection.

- Take time this week to think about your own story or testimony. Are there pieces or experiences in your life that may help shine the light of Christ into the lives of others? Think about those and write them down. Can you find a Bible verse that lines up with one of the "themes" in your story? Perhaps it's grief or encouragement or understanding what grace means or a specific parable or proverb. Find a verse and write it down. Memorize it.
- This about a significant event in your own life. Tell a friend, spouse or child about it. Retelling stories help commit them to memory.
- Jesus often used parables to make a point or redirect his followers. Consider reading a parable every day this week. Answer these questions: What stuck out to you? Did these verses raise any questions as you read? What do these verses say about the character of God? What is one thing you can apply to your life?

Examples of Parables: Matt. 18:21-35, Luke 15:4-32, Luke 18:1-8, Matt. 20:1-16, Matt. 22:1-14, John 15:1-6, Luke 14:7-24, Matt./ 7:24-27, Matt. 21:28-32, Luke 13:6-9, Luke 8:5-15, Matt. 25:14-30, Matt. 21:33-46, Luke 16:1-13, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 7:36-47, Luke 18:9-14, Matt. 12:43-45, John 10:1-30

- When we serve others, we learn about someone else's story. How have you seen this in your own experience? Where could you volunteer with your family or friends regularly?
- What makes your family history unique? How can you preserve the story of your family's history for your child?

Parents! Think about the following questions taken from the Phases book series:

- What are some stories that engage your child at the phase they are in right now? What might happen to your relationship when you watch or read the same story together?
- Listen to your child tell a story. How can you act like a narrator to help them interpret who they are and what's happening?

Excerpt from page 18, NT Wright article, *How can the Bible can be Authoritative?*:

Story authority, as Jesus knew only too well, is the authority that really works. Throw a rule book at people's head, or offer them a list of doctrines, and they can duck or avoid it, or simply disagree and go away. Tell them a story, though, and you invite them to come into a different world; you invite them to share a world-view or better still a 'God-view'. That, actually, is what the parables are all about. They offer, as all genuine Christian story-telling the does, a world-view which, as someone comes into it and finds how compelling it is, quietly shatters the world-view that they were in already. Stories determine how people see themselves and how they see the world. Stories determine how they experience God, and the world, and themselves, and others. Great revolutionary movements have told stories about the past and present and future. They have invited people to see themselves in that light, and people's lives have been changed. If that happens at a merely human level, how much more when it is God himself, the creator, breathing through his word.