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# God's Big Story

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## Session 1: God's Divine Plan

## Key Scripture

## Ephesians 1:3-10

## Opening Remarks

God's creation of humanity was a wondrous thing. In today's world, some people fail to see the majesty of that moment. We, on the other hand, want to see the splendor of God's creative power.

## Watch the Session 1 Video

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God was not content without human beings?
2. What do you think it would have been like to walk with God in the Garden of Eden? How does that compare to our fellowship with God today?
3. Does the way you work, serve, and lead honor God's design? In what ways?

## Closing Remarks

While God does all things well and saw the results of His handiwork as good with each day of Creation, He wanted something more. God is not lacking or needy; He is not somehow incomplete without us, but out of His great love, He chose communion with those who could choose not to commune with Him. We will choose the privilege of knowing God.

**NOTES:**

[illegible]

## Session 2: The Choice That Brought Bondage

## Romans 5:12-14

We must reject sin and its bondage and look to God for freedom. The lessons that cost us the most are usually the lessons most remembered. If Adam and Eve could but pause the story's action on the stage and speak to us today in an aside, they would likely tell us in dramatic fashion to avoid sin at all costs. While our world today makes a joke of the very idea of sin and takes delight in brazenly flaunting disobedience of the most basic societal morals, stories abound all around us that testify of the devastation that comes from violating God's plan. But there is hope. With God's help we can recognize and flee from Satan's formula for deception.

1. Do you grasp that God deeply loves you—not out of obligation or with conditions, but genuinely loves you? What impact has that knowledge made on you?
2. What are some important values we should adopt to better reflect our love for God?
3. What should be our response to God's grace?

In our present-day lives, we need boundaries. God's Word warns us of things that can do danger to our souls. Out of respect for what pleases God and out of care to preserve our relationship with Him, we should build guardrails that protect us from those temptations.

[illegible]

## Session 3: Redemption Made Available

## | Peter 1:17-21

Despite humanity's rejection, God continued to offer the invitation to fellowship with Him. He would speak intimately with a man named Abraham and call this special offer of relationship a covenant. In it, He would declare His desire to have a special people and the terms of that arrangement to allow flawed humanity to join with holy God.

1. How do you fit into God's timeless plan to be in relationship with His people?
2. How can you share the gospel with others?
3. What do you think it means to "abound in hope?"

Sin requires payment. And so a procession of characters representing generation after generation march across the stage to illustrate the story of battles fought, sacrifices offered, and miracles witnessed as God pursued His people across the centuries. We have ultimate hope in God's sacrifice for us.

**NOTES:**

[illegible]

## Session 4: Forever Set Free

## Revelation 7:13-17

The big story shows that God uses redeemed humanity in His mission to reach others and rule and reign with Him for eternity. In this revelation, all of the many characters from the stage at once shift into formation and link together. The audience suddenly realizes that God has been orchestrating His people throughout each scene as part of His plan to invite people from every nation and culture into the big story (II Corinthians 5:18-20).

1. Do you invite God to actively work in your life, seeking Him daily to purify you? Explain.
2. Why is receiving the Holy Ghost a miracle from Heaven?
3. How are you joined in the mission with the body of Christ to participate in the ministry of reconciliation?

In this story there are no little characters, no extras. Every person matters and is part of the big story to bring all of the world into reconciliation with Jesus Christ. Not only did the hero sacrifice Himself to rescue humanity, but He then empowers humans to minister to each other. All these truths play out, not in a simple start-to-finish children's story, but in the grand scheme of humanity. For not only is God without beginning or ending, but He desires to commune with us eternally, and this grand story of His is the master plan for all of humanity beyond the bounds of time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

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