

Hello friends,

We all like stories don't we? Whether it's reading a book, watching a movie, or streaming a series there is something about stories that intrigue us. We can take them in slowly and savor them or we can consume them quickly and binge watch them over the course of a weekend. There are even some stories that we can read, or watch over and over again, and others that are just a waist of time.

Stories are compelling and shape the way we think. They tell us what it means to be happy and successful. They take us away to exotic places we would like to visit or to dangerous places that we would never dare to go. They reveal what we should be concerned about and expose what we find hilarious. At times stories distract us from reality and other times they give us hope in the future and there are even times that stories inspire us to try something new.

And then there are our personal stories that we have written throughout our lives. These stories cover the highs and lows of our lives as well as the joys and heartbreaks. These stories shape us as well and have a lot to do with how we live our lives. At times these stories encourage us to be strong through difficult situations. And then there are times these stories trap us into making poor choices. Sadly there are times these choices become destructive patterns of behavior that become recurring parts of our story.

For the Christian though, there, is another story that should shape our lives. It's *God's story*. The metanarrative of scripture told in four parts; **creation, fall, redemption, and recreation**. *God's story* shapes us like this:

In the **creation** part of the story we realize that God created everything good and man very good. We are made in His image to worship Him and live for Him, caring for the things He has made.

In the **fall** part of the story we realize that sin and death twisted everything. Instead of worshiping God and caring for His creation, man does the opposite, living lives full of sin.



We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

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In the **redemption** part of the story we see that Jesus came to forgive and began fixing everything. Our guilt is nailed to the cross and Christ has given us a new life, adopted into God's family. We start to live our lives the way God originally created man to live, loving God with all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. And loving our neighbors as ourselves.

In the **recreation** part of the story we see that God will return and finish fixing everything. The better we understand that death no longer has power over King Jesus or us, we begin to share in His resurrection life, living out His story knowing it will be finished when He returns.

God's story isn't something that we hear once and move on. We need this story over and over again or else we begin to tell ourselves a different story. So we get to begin each week immersing ourselves in God's story as we gather at our churches to worship. The songs we sing, the prayers we pray, and the sermon preached, tell the story of the gospel of Christ, God's story.

This is why reaching the lost and gathering the reached is so important. There are so many people in our community lost in a cycle of poverty, living their lives separated from God and His people. We reach these people every day with God's story. We welcome them into our community at the Mission and demonstrate what it means to have loving relationships with God, self, others and the rest of creation in our daily lives. And we gather them into local churches where they can be discipled alongside you and I. And together we can experience a better story, the story of God.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ~Romans 12:2~

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ
Ken & Diane Capp,
and Barbara Carse

In honor of my brother Mark Bishop
by Breta Smith

In memory of Jerry Armstrong
by Mary Armstrong

In memory of Earl Best

by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis

In memory of my father Norm Bishop
by Breta Smith

In memory of Jason Bordeau
by Cheryl Schmidt

In memory of Don Breazeale
by Virginia Breazeale

In memory of Wallace & Lucille Brill
by Judy Addington

In memory of Gene Covic
by Frank Albert

In memory of My Sister Debbie Joy
by Lynn Baker

In memory of Lucile Douglas
by Joanie Ganong

In memory of Alan Dover
by Peggy Dover

In memory of Buck Fixsen
by Patricia Fixsen

In memory of Steve Fixsen
by Patricia Fixsen

In memory of Rochelle Roby Frymire
by Paul & Janice Roby

In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter
by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman

In memory of Curtis Kelley
by James & Marilyn Kelley

In memory of Lu Lull
by Joyce Lull

In memory of Willard Marsh
by Marilyn Marsh

In memory of David Mayer
by Frank Albert

In memory of Bill McTaggart
by Lori McTaggart

In memory of Colleen Moore
by Patrick Moore

In memory of Billie Ray Nering
by Ken & Diane Capp

In memory of R. Ravizza
by Joyce Brown

In memory of Jim Ronda
by Connie Ronda

In memory of Zach Russell
by John & Debra Russell

In memory of Jack Salter
by Judy Salter

In memory of Nancy Scafani
by David Scafani

In memory of Jerry Scheid
by Jackie Scheid

In memory of Dorothee Shadad
by Michelle Hobbs

In memory of Garland Shinn
by Glenda Riffle,

John & Glennis Dungey,
and Jeff & Susan Kendle

In memory of Marjorie Skeen
by Big Ken Skeen

In memory of Karen Squires
by Ernest Squiess

In memory of Aaron Ter Best
by St. Peter's Lutheran - WML

In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer
by David & Helene Uhreen

In memory of Lon Wells
by Ruth Wells

In memory of Joliene Williams
by Albert Williams

In memory of Randy Williams
by Vicki Williams

In memory of Garry Wilson
by Arline Wilson

Thank you for equipping us to restore lives in our community!