

The 5 Storylines of Scripture

2 Timothy 2:15 "rightly dividing the Word of Truth"

God

Adversary

Mutiny

Human
Condition

Rescue
&
Restoration

Response

How should I respond to what God has revealed?

One or more of these storylines can be found in every story in the Bible. Below are some questions to ask in order to get the message God intended. Let the Holy Spirit be your teacher and guide. Learn to draw the meaning out of God's Word.

1. What does this passage teach about **God**? (His character, nature, attributes; how He does things; what He expects, His promises)
2. What does this passage teach about our **adversary**? (his nature, his purposes, his tactics? oftentimes he is behind the scenes)
3. How is mankind's **mutiny / rebellion** against God revealed? (since Genesis 3, sin is always a factor)
4. Because of the mutiny, how has the **human condition** been effected? (what consequences and effects of sin are revealed?)
5. How is God's plan of **rescue & restoration** revealed? How is **Jesus** revealed? (salvation, mercy & grace are always present)

Response

How should I respond to the truths revealed? How can I submit to God? How should I resist the adversary? How should I resist the rebellion of my flesh? How does my heart and mind need to be changed and renewed? How should I respond to Jesus Christ? How can I put my faith in action? How can I love God & love my neighbor?

Thanks to Jim Martin & Doug Greenwold for this framework.

The Church of Joy, P.O. Box 41, 3080 Hwy 362, Williamson, GA 30292 770.227.1671 www.TheChurchofJoy.org Ron Laney, Pastor

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The Bible is One Big Story made up of many small stories.

We read and study the Bible in order to get a correct view of the God who made us. The viewpoint we have of God is what shapes our lives – our decisions, our lifestyle, our morality, our relationships, our perspectives, etc. Having an incorrect view of God leads to idolatry. Idolatry is serious business to God. It always leads to death and destruction. Without the knowledge of the Scriptures, we will create and serve a god made from our own imagination and thoughts - an idol.

The Scriptures are God's viewpoint of Who He is and what He desires for us. God is the main character of the Story and His plan and purposes are the plot. When you read the Bible, look for God first and foremost. Contrary to popular opinion, you and I are not the main characters of the Story. It does not revolve around us. It revolves around the loving, benevolent God who invites us into His Story (History). Keeping this in mind, will help you properly respond to God in worship, humility and thanksgiving.

As you read, you will see how some of the people in the Story choose to cooperate and respond in faith to God. Some choose to resist and go their own way. Seeing these individuals will often be like looking in the mirror. Learn from their faith and their failures.

The Bible answers our greatest questions - Who is God? Where did we come from? Why is there evil & suffering? Can anything be done about evil & suffering? What is life all about? Where is the world headed? Is there hope for me? What happens after death? And more....

You and I have been given the privilege of communicating with the Author of the Bible. While you read, interact with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to reveal what you need to see. He will be faithful to illuminate and amplify just what you need for that moment - "daily bread".

Learn the Text, Live the Text, Teach the Text, Pray the Text, Die the Text

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

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