

Questions

- What is your favor part of the Bible?
- What sections of the Bible do you **not** gravitate to?

Questions

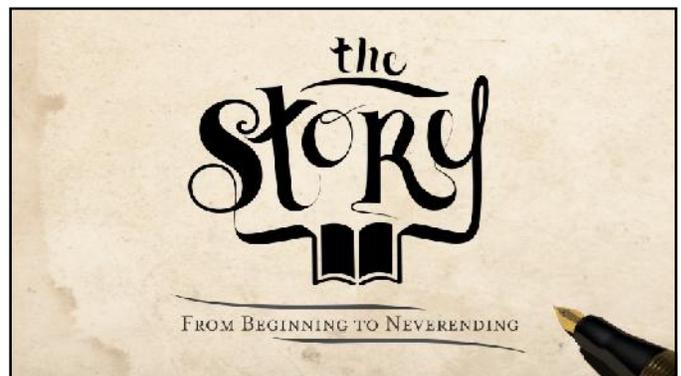
- What are your greatest challenges to understanding the Bible?

Questions

- How do you tend to approach the Bible?
- Or
- Why do you read the Bible?

Use of the Bible

- At times we may be tempted to use the Bible as...
 - A spring board
 - using the text to say whatever we want
 - Simply as a promise book
 - reducing the Bible to a list of personal promises
 - A self-help book
 - moving the Bible from a book about God to a how-to-manual for surviving life
 - A moralizing manual
 - reduces the Bible to a behavior modification manual



Overview

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (ESV)




One Story—Overview

- **Series**
- **Seasons**
- **Episodes**
 - **Sermon**—Episodes in the grand narrative of the Bible
 - Telling and apply the One Story
 - **ABF**—Theme Studies
 - Season 1
 - Revelation
 - Humanity
 - Temptation
 - Sin
 - Grace



One Story—Overview

- **Handouts**
 - **Sermon outline**—in the bulletin
 - **Episode synopsis**—in racks around the building
 - Previous weeks located at the Connection Centers
 - **Themed studies**—distributed in ABFs, and in racks around the building
- Binders are available—lobby overlook
- **the-OneStory.org**



How does these verses give an initial perspective on the value and theme of the one story of the Bible?

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (ESV)



How does these verses give an initial perspective on the value and theme of the one story of the Bible?

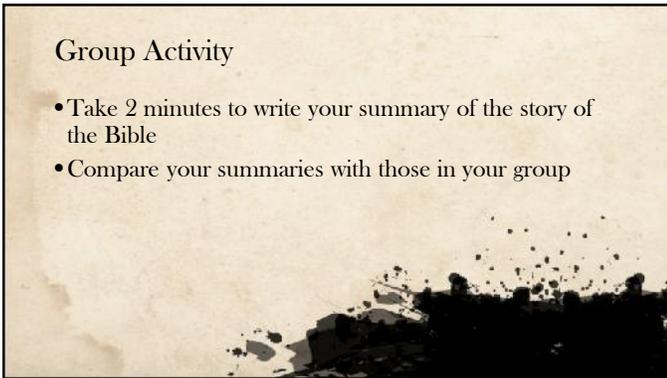
Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (ESV)

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV)



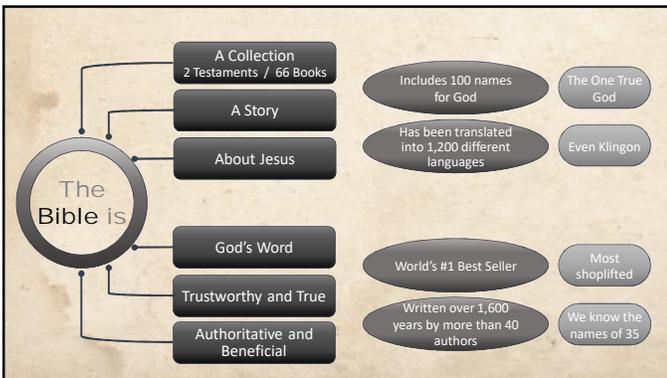
Group Activity

- Take 2 minutes to write your summary of the story of the Bible
- Compare your summaries with those in your group



The One Story – Revealed in the Bible

- **What kind of Book is the Bible?**
 - Its Name—from *biblia* (literally: books, scrolls)
 - Its Time Span—1600 (+/-) years [1500BC to 100 AD]
 - Its Composition—66 “books” by more than 40 different human authors (1189 chapters, 31,102 verses)
 - Its Languages—mainly Hebrew (OT) & Greek (NT)
 - Its Translations—Critical analyzed manuscripts, rendered the way normal language works
 - Its Genres—History (narrative), Poetry, Law, Sermon, Gospel, Letters, Prophecy & more

The One Story – Revealed in the Bible

- **Authorship**
 - Divine
 - Inerrancy—True in everything it asserts
 - Authority—His Word to us
 - Prophecy—Extends the Story into the Future
 - Human
 - Personality, background and experiences
 - Culture and language



The One Story – Revealed in the Bible

- **The Unity of the One Story**
 - Thematic unity
 - Picture of God
 - Monotheistic, distinct from creation
 - Sovereign and purposeful
 - Providing for His people
 - Salvation
 - Substitutionary
 - Climax: Cross of Christ



The Bible—interesting facts

- Writers
 - 40 (including editors)
- Writer who wrote the most words
 - Moses—about 125,139 words (20% of Bible)
- Writer who wrote the most documents
 - Paul—13 books
- Longest book
 - Jeremiah (33,002 words in Hebrew)
 - Luke (19,482 words in Greek)
- Shorted book
 - 3 John (219 words in Greek)
 - Obadiah (440 words in Hebrew)





Reminder: Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons **through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, 6 **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us **in the Beloved**.

Reminder: Ephesians 1:3-14

7 **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 **which he lavished upon us**, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth **in Christ** 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things **in him**, things in heaven and things on earth.

Reminder: Ephesians 1:3-14

11 **In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** might be **to the praise of his glory**. 13 **In him** you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed **in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**. (ESV)

Group Activity: Overview

- Bookends
- Genesis 1-3
- Revelation 20-22

The Bible's Bookends

- Revelation 20 Genesis 3
- Judgement
- Revelation 21 Genesis 2
- Man created to be in God's presence
- Revelation 22 Genesis 1
- God creates to rule over all

The Bible's Bookends—Overview

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incursion/intrusion of enemies of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan, sin, evil, death • Genesis 1-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordered creation • Creation of man in God's 	<p>Revelation 21-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of God's enemies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan, death, evil • Revelation 21-22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of order • Man's relationship with God without barriers
--	--



The Bible's Bookends

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the beginning God created the heavens and earth (1:1) • In the day you eat of it you will die (2:17) • Day and night (1:5) • God made two great lights (1:16) 	<p>Revelation 21-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I saw a new heaven and new earth (21:1) • There shall be no more death (21:4) • There shall be no night there (21:25) • The city had no need for sun or moon (21:23)
---	--



The Bible's Bookends

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the tree prevented (3:24) • Man driven from God's presence (3:24) 	<p>Revelation 21-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the tree of life provide (22:14) • God would be in the midst of his people (22:4)
--	---



The Bible's Bookends

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavens/earth • Day/night • 7th day holy • Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of life • Rivers 	<p>Revelation 21-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New heavens/new earth • No darkness • All holy • Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of life • River
--	---

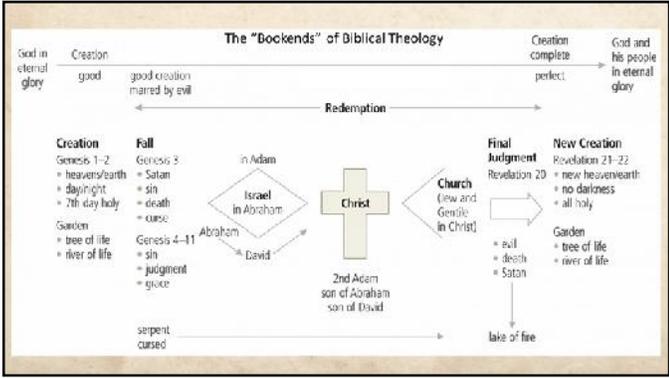
The Bible's Bookends

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God created mankind with the goal of having communion (fellowship)—allowing them to be in His presence • Man was created in God's image and likeness, predisposed to a relationship with Him, and with all our needs provided 	<p>Revelation 21-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God establishes His dwelling in the midst of his people • God provides for all that man needs forever
--	---



The Bible's Bookends

<p>Genesis 1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall (Gen 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan—Temptation • Man—Sin • Curse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man judged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curse—death (separation) • Serpent cursed 	<p>Revelation 20-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment (Rev 20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All judged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reward • Some sent to the second death/lake of fire (separation) • Satan judged <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evil, death, Satan thrown into the lake of fire
--	---



- The Bible Project video: Heaven and Earth
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQIK6C5k>