



God's Grand Story, Pt. 1: Beginnings

We tend to view the Bible as a bunch of fragmented bits of history, poetry, and moral tales, but in reality, the Bible tells a story. And it's a true story. Ultimately, it's a story about God and our part in the story he is writing. It's a story that gives meaning to our existence, our daily lives, and to every other story on earth. As you read through the Bible, resist the tendency to get bogged down in the details and make sure you never lose sight of the magnificent story that is unfolding.

Bottom Line: God is the source and sovereign of all things and with him there is always hope.

Discussion Questions:

1. As you begin a study of God's Grand Story, what are you looking forward to most?
2. What is your favorite story from the Bible? Why is your favorite?
3. As you consider the four main events in Genesis (creation of the universe, the fall into sin, the flood, and the formation of nations) and the stories of the four main people (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph), with which of those events or people do you most identify? Why?
4. God gave Joseph dreams about his future, and Joseph unwisely bragged to his older brothers what God had in store for him (that they would bow to him). When his brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery, what questions do you think Joseph may have had about his actions? About God's faithfulness? About his future?
5. Years later, when Joseph was second in command in Egypt, his brothers did indeed come and bow before him (Genesis 43:26; 44:14; 50:18). Though he could have had revenge upon them, he chose a different path. **Read Genesis 45:1-11 and 50:18-21.** What stands out to you about Joseph's response and mindset?
6. With Joseph's story in mind, is there any current or previous experience you need to view differently? How does your perspective need to change?
7. ~What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
~What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week?
~How did it help you?
~How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzcao0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.