

Weekly Resource: The Story of Jesus

The Passed Down Gospel

Purpose: to provide space to go further in study and understanding of the gospel story of Jesus Christ.

→ **What about the gospel?**

Micah shared on Sunday about the New Testament writers' view of the gospel was centered on this announcement: "Jesus, the crucified and risen Messiah, is Lord and Savior."

- ❖ How does this gospel announcement stand in contrast to our culture?
- ❖ What are the implications of understanding the gospel as an announcement about God instead of a systematic plan of salvation?

→ **What about the gospel and salvation?**

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

In Sunday's message Micah shared, "...the gospel story of Jesus is a complete, grand story and not just a Good Friday event." For many, the gospel is summarized as a pathway for salvation or making Jesus the Savior of my life.

- ❖ Where do you find the gospel message before and after the cross?
- ❖ How is salvation a response to who Jesus is, what he did and what he will do?

→ **What about the gospel when the end comes?**

In Sunday's message, we considered the second coming of Christ and the full consummation of the kingdom of God as part of the gospel story.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; for further reading consider Revelation 19-21

- ❖ What about the second coming intimidates you? What about it do you eagerly anticipate? How are these things good news?
- ❖ Some read 1 Cor. 15:27-28 and believe that God the Father is over or supreme to Jesus and the Spirit? However, if we consider the whole of Scripture, how is the Triune God standing in solidarity when the end comes?

Weekly Prayer: Father God, make us messengers of the gospel. Give us a hunger to know the whole story and share it with ease and power. God, by the grace of Jesus and the peace of the Spirit, help us to anticipate – not fear – your coming...the end of this life and the beginning of the next. For you, Lord, are the Almighty God who reigns. We praise you and our hearts are glad and give you glory! Amen.

Children's Corner: The Story of Jesus

The Passed Down Gospel

*NOTE: Since we are able to offer our Nursery Video and T3 Videos every week for ages 2nd grade & younger, this resource will primarily be focused on content for ages 3rd-6th grade.

As we consider Micah's sermon this week, let's think about how the promises of God from last week connect us to Jesus' second coming that we learn about in the book of Revelation. Let's search for clues to help us understand the story of Jesus and how we become a part of that story.

***REMEMBER** – The gospel story is the same throughout the whole Bible and all of human history = God fulfills His promises by grace to restore us & the world to Himself because God loves us so much.

***READ** – "The Jesus Storybook Bible" is a good choice – focus on *A Dream of Heaven* (pp. 342-351).

The book of Revelation = a symbolic vision for every generation of the church that reveals history's pattern and God's promise that Jesus will return to restore and redeem His world

Revelation can be a bit overwhelming, especially for younger readers, as we try to understand the significance of the descriptions and symbolism used in this book. In *The Story for Children* by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee, and Karen Davis Hill, each chapter is accompanied by a few summary take-home thoughts called "God's Message." Here's a great message for Revelation from this book:

"Wait patiently, my children, for I will come again. I will remember my promise and my kingdom will come. On that day, there will be singing in the streets and rejoicing in heaven. Peace and joy and goodness will replace war, sadness, and evil. Sin and death will be forgotten. All will be well. And the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will reign on his throne forever and ever."

Look in Revelation 4:8

- What do the creatures described in this verse say over and over all day & night?
- Let's repeat that out loud together 3 times. Proclaim it loudly!

Look in Revelation 1:8

- How does God describe Himself here? What does Alpha and Omega mean?

***SEARCHING FOR CLUES THAT POINT TO JESUS**

Who wrote the book of Revelation and what was his relationship to Jesus?

How do we choose Jesus? What does being a follower or disciple of Jesus mean?

How are we a part of God's story right now?

***STUFF TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOUR FAMILY**

- John describes a "new heaven and a new earth" in Revelation 21:1-5. What do you picture in your mind when you read this? How does it make you feel?
- What are some ways you worship God? Name at least 3 ways to worship or give glory to God.

***PRAYER**

God, thank you for loving us and for always keeping Your promises. Thank you for the hope we have in Jesus to know that You are with us now and for all eternity. Help us to keep learning how to follow Jesus and His ways. Help us to remember that we belong to You, God. Give us courage to tell others about who You are. We love you and are excited for Jesus' return one day! In Jesus' name. Amen.