

THE **BIG**
PICTURE
STORY BIBLE



Family
Reading Plan

Dear Trinity Family,

At the beginning of the year, we introduced a reading plan that took us through the *Jesus Storybook Bible* as a church family. Hopefully, we all grew in our ability to hear that “every story whispers His name.” Our prayer is that as this skill continues to develop, our love for Scripture will deepen as well.

This fall we plan to further this process by working our way through *The Big Picture Story Bible*. Like the *Jesus Storybook Bible*, it is beautifully illustrated and a joy to read. It is structured to help us see the nature of the Kingdom of God and how Jesus is God’s forever king.

Over the next five weeks, we will read through *The Big Picture Story Bible* together much like we did with the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. One of the great things about *The Big Picture Story Bible* is that the stories are shorter, which allows for more discussion before and after reading. It also moves a little faster, which helps us really focus on, well...

THE BIG PICTURE!

A note to parents on the suggested questions: As you approach the readings, there is one question that can be read before each story (in bold-italics). These questions are designed to get your children thinking and to invite them into the story a little. The rest of the questions are intended to help stimulate discussion and highlight certain aspects of each section. As always, feel free to adjust, adapt or supplement the questions as you see fit to help tailor them to your children and their individual needs and abilities.

A note for adults: The orienting theme of *The Big Picture Story Bible* is the Kingdom of God. This organizing concept has been succinctly summarized by Graeme Goldsworthy as,

God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing.

This theme will be a great one to keep in mind as you guide your children through *The Big Picture Story Bible*. David Helm does an excellent job of utilizing the Kingdom as his fundamental theme, and you will benefit greatly as you become more accustomed to seeing it unfold through the progressive phases of redemptive history contained in God's Word.

If you would like to dig a little deeper into the concept of the Kingdom of God specifically or the subject of Biblical Theology more broadly, let me suggest the following resources:

God's Big Picture, by Vaughn Roberts

Gospel and Kingdom, by Graeme Goldsworthy

According to Plan, by Graeme Goldsworthy

At various points throughout the discussion questions, you will find reference points (for you) that correspond with central aspects of the concept of Kingdom that Roberts and Goldsworthy highlight in their work. These should make some sense on their own but will be best understood if you are reading one of the suggested resources as you go.

We pray that through your reading, you and your children will see the **BIG PICTURE** of God's love for you!

The Big Picture Story Bible

Family Reading Plan

From the Old Testament

Week One

- The Very Good Beginning
- A Very Sad Day
- Life Outside the Garden
- God's Big Promise
- God's People Grow
- God's People Become Great

Week Two

- God's Great Sign
- Going into God's Place
- God's Blessings Grow
- Another Very Sad Day
- God's Promise Remains

From the New Testament

Week Three

- Many Silent Years
- God's Promised One is Born
- God's Promised One is Announced
- God's New People are Called
- Jesus Restores God's Place

Week Four

- Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom
- A Blind Man Sees
- A Dead Man is Raised to Life
- Jesus Wears God's Kingly Crown
- Jesus' Followers Are in the Dark

Week Five

- A Brand-New Day
- God's Promise Is Explained
- God's New Kingdom Spreads
- Letters to Live By
- The Very Good Ending

From the Old Testament

The Very Good Beginning

If you could create anything with your words, what would you create?

How did God create everything?

Why are Adam and Eve so special?

Why were Adam and Eve supposed to obey God?

What were Adam and Eve supposed to do?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God Established

God's People, in God's Place, under His Rule and enjoying His Blessing

A Very Sad Day

*Think of a time you did something wrong. How did you feel?
What did you do?*

What did Satan do to cause trouble?

What did Adam and Eve do?

Why did God punish Adam and Eve?

How did God punish them?

What was the good news He gave them on that sad day?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God Destroyed

not God's People, not in God's Place, not under His Rule nor enjoying His Blessing

Life Outside the Garden

Have you ever had to leave a place you loved? What was it like?

What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed?

What was life like outside the garden?

What did Noah do?

What do you think were some of the animals on the ark? What are your favorites?

What does the flood teach us?

God's Big Promise

What is the biggest promise anyone has ever made to you? Did it come true? How did it feel?

What was God's big promise to Abraham?

What did Abraham do for God?

Why was Abraham afraid?

What did God do for Abraham?

What happened to Abraham as he listened to God's voice and looked up at the stars?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God Promised

God's new People, in God's new Place, under His Rule and enjoying His Blessing

God's People Grow

Think of a time someone sinned against you. Was it hard to forgive them? Why?

How did God keep His promise to Abraham?

Who did God's promise pass to?

Why did Jacob's sons hate Joseph?

What did they do to him?

What did God do?

What did Joseph do?

God's People Become Great

What would be the worst thing about being a slave?

Where did God's people become a mighty nation?

Why do you think Pharaoh hated God's people?

Who did God send to save His people?

Which of the plagues sounds the worst to you?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God in Part

God's new People, not in God's Place, not under His Rule nor enjoying His Blessing

God's Great Sign

If you were enslaved for a long time, what do you think would be the best thing about being set free?

What was God's great sign?

What did it show God's people?

What did God give to His people?

Why did God's people live in the desert for so long?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God in Part

God's new People, but not in God's Place, nor truly submitting to His Rule so not fully enjoying His Blessing

Going into God's Place

What is your favorite place in the world?

What was the name of God's special place?

What was the name of God's special leader?

What did Israel promise?

How did God punish Israel when they disobeyed Him?

What was special about David?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God in Part

God's new People, in God's new Place, sometimes submitting to His Rule and sometimes enjoying His Blessing

God's Blessings Grow

Think of a time you wanted to do something special for someone (maybe a parent, brother or sister, or friend). Share it.

What did David want to do for God?

What did God promise to do for David?

What was the name of God's great house?

What did the sacrifices made at the temple show God's people? (*Don't forget God's Great Sign, p.124*)

Another Very Sad Day

Have you ever had to move? What was hard about leaving home? What was difficult about entering a new place?

What did God's People do, again?

What did Jeremiah warn the King would happen?

How did God punish His people this time?

Why were God's people sent out of the land this time?

What do you think the hardest part about a move like this would have been?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God in Exile

God's People, not in God's Place, not under His Rule nor enjoying His Blessing

God's Promise Remains

Think of a time when you wanted something really badly, but when you got it, it was a little disappointing. Share.

What do you call a man who speaks for God?

What did Ezekiel say God would give His people?

Why do you think they needed new hearts?

Have you ever felt this way?

What did Isaiah promise?

What did Daniel pray?

Why did the older men cry when the temple was rebuilt?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God Prophesied

God's new People, in God's new Place, truly submitting to His Rule and enjoying His Blessing

From the New Testament

Many Silent Years

Have you ever had to wait a super long time for something you really wanted? What was it? What was it like to wait?

Why did Caesar Augustus count all the people?

What do you think is happening in the picture on page 238?

How was God going to show the people how great He was?

God's Promised One is Born

Have you ever been in a stable or barn? What was it like?

What had God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David?

What secret had God told Mary and Joseph?

How was God's forever king going to enter the world?

What was He going to do?

God's Promised One is Announced

What is the most amazing thing you've ever seen? How did you react?

What surprised the shepherds?

What was the big announcement the angels made?

Why do you think they made their big announcement to the shepherds?

God's New People are Called

What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten? Look on page 277. Do you know what's in John's sandwich?

What was John's special job?

What is baptism?

Why do you think Jesus needed to be baptized?

What could Jesus do that John couldn't?

Why did Jesus choose twelve disciples to follow Him?

Jesus Restores God's Place

*Have you ever made your house or your room really messy?
What did your mom and dad do?*

What was supposed to happen in the temple?

What was happening in the temple that Herod built?

Why was Jesus so mad? What did He do?

Where is God's special place now?

What was Jesus talking about when He said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom

What would you think about a person if they told you, "You have to get inside your mother's womb and be born all over again."?

Why do you think Nicodemus came to see Jesus so late at night?

Why was Nicodemus confused?

What did Nicodemus need?

What do you think it means to be born again?

A Blind Man Sees

Close your eyes for a minute. What do you think it would be like to have never seen anything in your entire life? No light, no colors, no sunsets, no faces... nothing?

Why did Jesus' disciples think the man was born blind?

Why weren't the leaders happy that the man could see? What made them so angry?

What do you think it was like for the man to see for the first time in his life?

What did the man learn about Jesus?

A Dead Man is Raised to Life

Have you ever wanted something really badly? Something someone you love could give you right then. But then been told, "Not now, you'll have to wait."? What was it like to wait?

Why didn't Jesus go to help Mary, Martha and Lazarus immediately?

Why was Mary crying? Why was Jesus crying?

Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

Why were the people ready to make Jesus their King?

Why were the leaders so angry?

What did they plan to do?

Jesus Wears God's Kingly Crown

Think of a time when someone told on you for doing something you didn't do. How did it feel to get in trouble when it wasn't your fault?

Why was Jesus arrested?

Why did Pilate allow so many mean things to be done to Jesus?

Why did the people want Jesus to be crucified?

Jesus' Followers Are in the Dark

Have you ever lost something you really loved? How did you feel?

Why were Jesus' friends sad?

Why were they afraid?

What had God's people hoped Jesus would do?

A Brand-New Day

What is the biggest surprise you've ever experienced?

What did Mary think had happened to Jesus?

Why were the doors locked where Jesus' friends were meeting together?

What happened when Jesus appeared to them?

God's Promise Is Explained

Who is your favorite teacher? Why? What is it like to learn from them?

What were Jesus' friends confused about?

What did Jesus do to help them understand?

What were some of the word pictures that helped them see Jesus would pay the penalty of sin?

What were some of the word pictures that promised He would rise from the dead?

What were some that showed He would be God's forever king?

What is the purpose of God's holy book?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God in Our Midst

God's new People, God's new Place, truly submitting to His Rule and enjoying His Blessing

God's New Kingdom Spreads

What's the most exciting news you have ever heard? What's the best gift you have ever been given?

What work did Jesus give his followers to do?

What gift did He give them to help?

What did Jesus do when He left His friends?

What happened when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends?

What did Peter tell people they need to do?

What happened as the good news began to spread?

Letters to Live By

Have you ever gotten a letter from someone really special?

What did you do?

How were God's people going to know what to believe?

How were God's people going to know what to do?

What did God do for His people?

What did He tell them to do? What was the really important stuff?

The Very Good Ending

What is the best trip you have ever taken? Why was it so fun?

Where did God take John?

What did he see there?

What is the good ending to the story God has been telling all along?

Major Point: The Kingdom of God Perfected

God's new People, in God's new Place, perfectly submitting to His Rule and fully enjoying His Blessing forever!

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Love God. Love People. Love Fort Worth.

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Trinity exists to embrace, embody, and extend the redemptive message of Jesus to the people and places of Fort Worth and beyond.

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

**The Bible is a big book, about a big God,
who keeps a big promise!**



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