

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: John 12:46

Day 1 – Chapter 25 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Matthew 17, Mark 8

Day 3 – Luke 9

Day 4 – John 11

Day 5 – Mark 11-12

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: No Ordinary Man

March 9-10, 2013

“The Story” Chapter 24; Luke 10:25-37; Mark 4:35-41

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” Mark 4:39, 41

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Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. What's the hardest class you had to take in school? What made it so hard for you?
2. You might think that Jesus spoke in parables so everyone could understand, but the disciples, as well as the crowds had a hard time understanding his meaning. Why did Jesus say he spoke in parables? (p. 336) Why was this so?
3. In one of Jesus' most famous parables, He used agricultural language and imagery to teach powerful spiritual truths (Mark 4:1-20; "The Story," pp. 335-336). What are the four different kinds of soil in this parable and what do they represent?
4. Jesus told three parables about lost things that were found (Luke 15; "The Story," pp. 337-339). What similar threads run through these stories and what do you learn about the love and heart of God from them?
5. Review pages 335-336. Based on the parables, what is the Kingdom of God? Look up Mark 1:15. What should be our response to the Kingdom of God?
6. The Sermon on the Mount opens with nine statements called "the Beatitudes," from the Latin word for "blessings." How does someone gain these blessed qualities? (Hint: See Rom. 3:21-23)
7. Christians believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man. How do you see this in the episode of calming the storm (p. 343)? What encouragement can believers today draw from this story?
8. Identify two or three ways the crowds misunderstood Jesus' description of their need for eternal life (pp. 349-351). How is Jesus' message (Jn. 6:29, 35, 47) different from most people's idea of salvation?
9. John the Baptist languished in prison until he was finally executed. Faithful believers are persecuted around the world in greater numbers today than ever before. Discuss practical ways that your group could support the persecuted church around the world. (*Check out www.persecution.org. This Web site provides accurate details about the persecution of Christians throughout the world.*)



Close in prayer.

Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory verse: We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. John 6:69

1. God doesn't like show-offs. In Jesus' time, some people made a big show about how spiritual they were. They'd go outside and make a huge fuss that they were praying. Jesus told His followers to act differently. He taught them to pray in a quiet place. Where do you like to pray? Do you pray at a certain time of day?
2. The Bible says God "knows what you need before you ask Him." How can He know that? Since He already knows, why do you need to pray?
3. When Jesus teaches us to pray, He says to forgive others the bad things they do to us, just like God forgives us. Is it hard to forgive others? Who are some people you've forgiven recently? Is there anyone you need to forgive right now?
4. One of the coolest things Jesus did was walk on the water. What do you think that would be like?
5. Peter tried to walk on the water, but took his eyes off Jesus and went for a swim instead. What's your favorite part about swimming?

Pray together: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Thank you for His gift of teaching in parables, which we still use and try to understand today. We are grateful for His teaching that still applies to our lives today. Help us to take His teachings out to those in our neighborhoods who may not know of His wondrous love. We pray this all in His strong name. Amen.

