

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

Day 1 – Chapter 24 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Matthew 5:1-20

Day 3 – Matthew 5:21-48

Day 4 – Matthew 6

Day 5 – Matthew 7

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: Jesus' Ministry Begins

March 2-3, 2013

“The Story” Chapter 23: Matthew 4:1-11

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



Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:10-11

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the message blog or go to
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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. When did you first begin to understand the message of Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Who helped you understand?
2. After forty days in the wilderness Jesus faced three temptations from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; “The Story,” pp. 322-323). What was each temptation and what did Jesus say to fend off each? How does Satan use similar types of temptation in our lives today?
3. How can knowing Scripture help us battle against daily temptations? Tell about a time you used Scripture to stand strong against the enemy.
4. Nicodemus and the woman at the well both had conversations with Jesus (p. 326-329). Why do they represent such a contrast?
5. How do the biblical Satan and other evil spirits compare to popular depictions of demons in films, television, literature or art?
6. Jesus was constantly interacting with different types of people: curious Jews, antagonistic Pharisees, tax collectors, and society’s castoffs. What can you learn about how to respond to different types of people from observing Jesus?
7. The faithful friends of the paralytic carried him to Jesus (pp. 330-331). If you are comfortable, share with your group a time in your own life that you had to totally depend on the faith of a Christian friend to get you through.
8. John the Baptist who had earlier proclaimed, “*Look, the Lamb of God,*” was now languishing in prison where he began to wonder about this Jesus (p. 334). Look up Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1. Why did Jesus answer John the way He did?
9. John has his moment of doubt. Can doubts and faith co-exist? Do our circumstances today affect our view of Jesus’ credibility, as it did with John?
10. Jesus sought out quiet places where he could meet with the Father face-to-face (Mark 1:35; “The Story,” p. 330). Why is it important that Christians today make regular time to be quiet before God? How are you doing in this area and how can your group members support you in this discipline of spiritual growth?

Close in prayer.



Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory verse: People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses...Jesus healed all of them. Matthew 4:24

1. Jesus called a wide variety of people to be his disciples—fishermen, tax collectors, revolutionaries—why didn’t Jesus call more powerful people like religious and government leaders?
2. Think of the Christians you know. Are they all the same? Why does Jesus call people with different interests and personalities to follow Him?
3. When Jesus asked someone to be His disciple, He simply said, “Follow me.” What can you do to follow Jesus today?
4. How does following Jesus change the way you act at school or with your family?
5. When Satan tempted Jesus, He used Old Testament Scriptures to defend Himself. Recite some Bible verses you’ve memorized. If you haven’t already, as a family memorize John 3:16–17.
6. Talk about how God’s Word can protect you today.

Prayer together: Dear Loving Jesus, we praise you for your work among the people so long ago. We thank you for your work among the people today. Please guide us to continue your work by reaching out to others with your love. Help us show them your promises and blessings. We love you, Jesus! Amen.

