

# THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

## The Story...so far – Chapter 1

The Story begins as God creates everything with humanity as the crown jewel – made in his image – in order that people and God might be in relationship together. *This is God's big idea – the reason for creation – that God and us be together.* God's desire was, and is, to be in relationship with his creation, as he was with Adam and Eve in the Garden. Adam and Eve, fueled by pride and a desire to be like God, disobey God and disorder ensues. Once the relationship between humanity and God is damaged, all other relationships for humanity are damaged as well, within the family, within society, and even our relationship with the rest of the created world.

We are given two stories to illustrate how Adam and Eve's decision effects humanity, one on a personal level (Cain and Abel) and one on a societal level (Noah and the Flood). In the story of Noah we see God take the best person on the earth and save him and his family, while the rest is lost in the flood. As the water subsides God promises never again to destroy the whole earth like that and gives the rainbow as his sign of that covenant. Even Noah himself, the best person on the earth, makes bad decisions after the flood and it serves as an example that even the best of us are not free from sin. God's covenant is a promise that despite how broken and sinful humanity may become, he will not deal with it strictly with judgment and punishment and wipe it out, He has another plan, a plan to restore it.

What is God's plan to restore his creation and does it start? This is where we will begin with Chapter 2.

### **Themes for *The Story* (points or ideas that we will see throughout the rest of *The Story*)**

- God made us to be in relationship with us – that is the reason for creation and life
- Our choices and free will carry great power and our decisions, bad or good, affect other people (in our creation story, the decisions made by Adam and Eve affect their offspring and all humanity).
- Even though humanity is broken by sin and disobedience, God will not deal with us solely in judgment, but in mercy – the rest of *The Story* is God's story of winning us back, of restoring our relationship.
- The Bible is the Story of God and us; it is *The Story* of a relationship between a loving God and his people.