

10,000 Foot View

Week 1: Creation/Fall

Week 2: Patriarchs of Israel

Week 3: Exodus

Week 4: Kings/Exiles

Week 5: Jesus

Week 6: Early Church

Week 7: The Church Continues

Week 8: New Creation

Metanarrative:

The overarching story of the Bible; all parts of the Bible point to—the story of creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. Imagine an umbrella over all Scripture, and all of it points to Jesus Christ, present at creation, the hope in the fall, our Redeemer, and promise of complete restoration. As you read the Scripture, look at how each part fits into this story.

Week 6:

The Early (Soon after Jesus) Church

Last week we read a bit about Jesus and His saving work through His life, death, and resurrection. This week, we are looking at what happened after Jesus ascended into heaven! What did his disciples do? Who helped them do it? With this knowledge, we can learn what Jesus desires for His church today, and who helps us even today! This all still fits into the metanarrative, the Big Story, of the bible (creation, fall, redemption, restoration)—creation is in sin and needs a Savior—He has come, spread the news so more may be restored!

Day 1: Acts 1:6-11

Jesus Ascends to Heaven and Promises the Holy Spirit

Whom does God send to give power and strength?

Why does God give power?

Where is the Holy Spirit leading you? Giving you power/strength?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to continue to fill you with His Spirit. Pray for one person disconnected from Jesus. Ask for boldness and an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

Day 2: Acts 2:1-8, 38-39; Luke 11:10-13 Pentecost—the Holy Spirit Comes!!!

How did the Holy Spirit appear on the disciples at Pentecost?

Is the promise of the Holy Spirit for all people?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, ask/thank God for the Holy Spirit, and how through Him, you are never alone. Thank God for specific ways He has worked in your life (list several now). Ask God to continue to make His presence known in your life through the Holy Spirit.

Day 3: Acts 2:42-47 (More? 4:32-37)

What the Early Church Did

What sticks out to you in this passage? (Interesting? Confusing? Cool? Surprising?)

What highlights how you are lacking in fellowship with the Christian family right now?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for community among the people of God. Thank Him for the privilege of alternative venues for community right now (church online, zoom gathering,...), and ask Him to help through the struggle of physical distancing as well. Ask Him to show you how to be a part of fellowship in a way He desires, and how to improve that time for you and His glory.

Day 4: Acts 5:17-42

The Apostles' Boldness through Persecution

Where do you see the fear of God in those opposing Him and the apostles?

Who gave the apostles strength, perseverance, and boldness?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for His power and miracles, even in our lives today. Ask for the same boldness to share Jesus as the apostles had. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and to help identify one person you can share Jesus with or at least make the next step in that direction.

Day 5:

Acts 9:1-22

(Want to read more? Ephesians 3:7-13)

Saul's Conversion

Compare Saul at the beginning of the passage and the end of the passage.

Read verses 17-18. What affect did the Holy Spirit have on Saul?

God chose to work mightily through Saul, even though he had persecuted the church. What does this teach you about whom God uses?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for His powerful work through the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit so you may have boldness to share Jesus with others. Repent of the excuses you use of why God cannot use you, and ask for a soft heart to God's directing.

Day 6: Acts 20:1-16

Paul's Mission Trips

*Saul's name is referred to as Paul often.

This link: https://www.conformingtojesus.com/charts-maps/en/paul%27s_journeys_map.htm is to a map of Paul's 3 mission trips. Look at the names of the cities. Some of them may sound similar to some of the books of the bible (the Epistles/letters) since those books were letters Paul wrote to the church plants in many of the cities he visited.

What miracle did God work through Paul?

Where have you seen God work in your life?

You do not have to travel all over to be a missionary; it starts even in your own home and neighborhood. How can the Holy Spirit help you in living for Him with the mindset of a missionary?

Prayer Prompt: As you now pray, thank God for those actively spreading the news of Jesus—pray for His success through this. Thank God for working in your life (share some specific ways with God right now!). Ask for boldness to share Jesus, seeing yourself as a missionary. Pray for a specific person disconnected from Jesus.