

## Zion's River's Discipleship

### THE STORY

Introduction—The Story is Real

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### I WELCOME TO "THE STORY"

a Learning and/or relearning how the teachings of Jesus and the Word fit into *real life*.

b Where does this discipleship course fit?

- The Walk
- The Story
- The Power
- The 72

#### II THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

a **Mark 1:17 (ESV) — 17** And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

b Jesus chose 1...3...12...72

c **Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) — 18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

#### III WHY IS THIS COURSE SO IMPORTANT?

a All of life is a developing and unfolding as a story.

- Who you are does not culminate in a moment or in an achievement; it's how you live over a lifetime.

b God wrote your story before time began.

- Meaning begins with God's dreams manifesting through human history.

c Doctrine is learned far more in living life than sitting in classroom.

- You don't know what you really believe until you test it in real life.

- d A life is built over a lifetime, and the best life is built deliberately.
  - Life is seen for how it is invested.

**PONDERING LIFE: What do you believe God wants you to get out of this 12-week discipleship course?**

#### IV THE CRITICAL PARTS OF ANY GOOD STORY

- a The Writer and The Plot
- b The Struggling Hero
- c The Moment of Crisis
- d Spiritual and Life Mentors
- e Discovery of a Hidden Mission
- f Friends and Allies
- g Enemies
- h Politics, Drama, and Conflict
- i Times of Great Distress
- j The Ultimate Climax of the Story
- k Times of Rest and Joy

**PONDERING LIFE: How does this view of life through story help you in understanding real life?**

#### V GOD'S GIFT OF STORY

- a When God created time, He began a story.
  - **Genesis 1:1–3 (ESV) — 1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **3** And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- b God created you with mission within the story.
  - **Genesis 1:27–28 (ESV) — 27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
  
- c The Essence and Nature of Life’s Story is God’s Presence and His Dreams at the Center
  - Read **Psalms 139:7-17**.

**PONDERING LIFE: Knowing that God is in every detail of our unique story, how should we see our walk with God?**

**VI JESUS CAME TO GIVE YOU A STORY WITH ADVANTAGE.**

- a **John 10:10 (ESV) — 10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
  
- b **Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) — 18** Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.
  
- c **Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV) — 24** “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”
  
- d **John 16:12–15 (ESV) — 12** “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**PONDERING LIFE: How can you begin, right now, connecting to your God-given story?**