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THE HEART OF GOD'S
STORY

Know His Face. Thrive in His Space.
Extend His Grace.

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Viewer Guides with Answers. *The Heart of God's Story Bible Study*.

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HEARING GOD'S HEART

What Makes a Great Story?

1. Beauty
2. Vivid characters
3. Great plots
4. Tension
5. Big questions
6. Familiarity or surprises
7. Connection to life
8. A powerful message

Our Love of Stories Is Not an Accident

Stories are at the heart of what God is up to in the universe.

Stories affect our brains in a way that other forms of communication do not.

God has given us much of His Word in the form of stories.

We can't understand the gospel in its beauty and its fullness if we don't understand the whole of the story.

Why God Has Made Us Story People

1. To draw us into the story

2. To change us by the story

3. To transform us for the story

Purposes of the Lord's Supper

1. To remember this part of the story

2. To proclaim the story to others

PERSONAL NOTES

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Beauty in the Bookends of the Bible

- Genesis 1–3
- Revelation 19–22

Key Themes at the Heart of God's Story

1. Extending God's grace

Grace: God's trustworthy kindness and favor extended to us as He gifts us with all the good things we need

2. Thriving in God's space

The garden foreshadows the tabernacle in the wilderness.

The new Jerusalem is both a garden and a sort of tabernacle or temple.

3. Knowing God's face

Made in God's Image

1. A very special part of creation

Image reflects relationship.

2. Our walking with God and His walking with us

The gospel means that where you think life stops with death is actually the place where it starts, as we die to ourselves and experience resurrection life in Jesus Christ.

PERSONAL NOTES

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Are you passionate about knowing Christ, or are you satisfied with knowing about Him?

What Does It Mean to Know God's Face?

1. God desires a personal relationship with us.

Covenant: A meaningful agreement between God and people

2. God desires a relationship of trust.

The most foundational sin is to think that we know better than God.

Biblical faith is not a leap into the dark. It is a step into the light.

Biblical faith: My trust in God that what He has revealed in the world as true is something that I can step out on and depend on

3. God's presence and God's principles always go together.

In His Word God teaches us the right way to live.

God takes sin very seriously because He knows the power of sin and its cost in our lives and in our relationship with Him.

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The Tabernacle: A Mobile Home for God

Description of the Tabernacle

Cherubim: Spiritual beings especially associated with the throne and the presence of God

The tabernacle was in the middle of the camp.

God's Word was at the center of God's presence.

Functions of the Tabernacle

1. The tabernacle was a place of mediated relationship through atonement.

Atonement—the cleansing of sin through sacrifice—was at the center of the function of the tabernacle.

2. The tabernacle is a place of rhythmic worship at the center of the camp.

3. The tabernacle is a place of God's active presence for the manifestation of God's glory.

The Temple: Solomon's Big Project

Attention to the ways of God is always related to the presence of God.

Differences Between the Temple and the Tabernacle

1. Solomon is more like Pharaoh than Moses.
2. God does not initiate the building.
3. The people do not freely participate in the building.
4. The craftsmen are not Israelites selected and empowered by God.

What We Learn from Solomon's Story

1. God's amazing grace in working with flawed people and flawed projects
2. Hope for something better

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In the Old Testament story the law can't answer the problem. The temple can't answer the problem. Wisdom cannot answer the problem.

At this point in the story, the ark of the covenant is now lost.

The glory of the Lord never again fills the building called the temple in Jerusalem.

The Temple Jesus Knew: Herod's Temple

For Jews, Jerusalem was the center of the world.

The temple was the center of religion, economy, and political power.

Jesus and the Temple

In Jewish theology when Messiah came, He would put things right with the temple.

Jesus would have been heard during His time as a terrorist who was trying to subvert Judaism and the Roman government.

God is anticipating the time in the future when the Gentiles would flow into the city as worshippers of God.

With Jesus' death and resurrection, the temple as the center for worship in the world is over.

The Church as God's New Mobile Home

God changes the location of the temple. He transfers the temple to His people.

We're not only the temple; we're also the priesthood in the temple, who can go right into the presence of the living God.

Your church building is not the primary way that God extends His grace to the world. You are.

The temple of God—the people of God on earth—are going to come together with the heavenly dwelling place of God, and we're going to be with God forever.

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Grace: God's trustworthy kindness and favor extended to us as He gifts us with all the good things we need

Ways God's Grace Is Extended to Us in the Heart of God's Story

1. God's grace creates.

Types of Creative Grace

1. All people experience common grace.

2. New-creation grace

2. God's grace pursues.

God, in the grand story of Scripture, keeps coming after His enemies to rescue us.

There is a tenacity and a trajectory to grace.

God's going to extend His grace through the Jewish people to the nations.

3. God's grace disrupts and erupts.

Grace comes in to change things and make things the way they are supposed to be.

God's authority and power and love are going to have to address bad situations in the world.

4. God's grace saves and transforms.

If you are a person who is a part of the new covenant, you are not guilty before God.

God wants to extend grace to us so that He then can extend grace through us.

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