



## WEEKLY ENEWS FOR JULY 2ND 2017

We love stories don't we? We all have a favourite story that we love to tell or to be told. Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. They're the language of our world and we learn about each other when we share. Long before the printing press and the "bible" as we know it came to be - scripture was passed along in story form from generation to generation. The Hebrews understood God, his character and their relationship with him by looking at the stories handed down to them. They likened scripture to a diamond and hearing and looking at scripture was like turning the diamond, letting the light hit the many facets to reflect further depth, beauty and detail.

This summer we're looking at the great stories of the bible and connecting them together to see God's plan to redeem mankind - from the very beginning to the birth of his church. As we look at those stories we'll also learn more about God's character as well as about who we are and how we are invited into his great story.

Eugene Peterson said "The Christian life is not about us; it is about God. Christian spirituality is not a life-project for becoming a better person, it is not about developing a so-called "deeper life". We are in on it, to be sure. But we are not the subject. Nor are we the action. . . The great weakness of North American spirituality is that it is all about us: fulfilling our potential, getting in on the blessings of God, expanding our influence, finding our gifts, getting a handle on principles by which we can get an edge over the competition. And the more there is of us, the less there is of God. We're called to join God and his actions in us and in the world, participating in what God is doing. When we get a picture of how our lives fit into the encompassing epic of God's Story, we begin to see our path in God's activity as His people in the world. Our focus changes. We move away from our own agendas to join God in restoring things to wholeness- -the way God created them to be. It's a focus that moves beyond personal growth to participation in God's kingdom."

Each Sunday we'll listen to the narrative and then engage with the story by dialoguing together about what we notice when we look at the greatest story of all. Each week we'll add another story that builds chronologically on the week before. It's great if you're new to the bible or have lots of experience with it. All you need is a sense of adventure and a desire to get to know God who loves mankind and desires to be known by his creation!

