

---

# Introduction

*As you start the study, begin with prayer and take some time to share your stories together. Consider the following questions. Where are you from? What was life like for you growing up? What is your religious background? What do you hope to gain from studying the Bible?*

**Q:** Why do you think stories are important?

Stories are powerful. They are not just a list of facts or information about you, but stories reveal who you are and what is important to you. In the same way, the Bible is a story about God. It shows us who God is and how we participate in His story. Let's read the following overview of the Biblical narrative together:

1. **Creation:** God created the heavens and the earth. "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" (Genesis 1:27-28) All that God made was good and He rested from his work.
2. **Fall:** Man was deceived by the enemy and ultimately disobeyed God. Consequently, sin entered the story and ruined God's good creation. God chooses a man named Abraham and his family to establish his plan for restoring his good creation. The Old Testament shows the struggle of this family, the people of Israel, to stay faithful to God.
3. **Redemption:** Jesus arrives on the scene. He performs miracles. He preaches a message of repentance and the Kingdom of God. He pays the ultimate price of our sin by dying on the cross. Three days later, Jesus resurrects and overcomes the power of sin and death.
4. **Restoration:** Jesus ascends into heaven, the Holy Spirit comes, the church begins, and we have been invited to participate in God's mission to heal and restore all of creation!

**Q:** Now that you have a basic understanding of the Bible, does anything stand out to you about the Biblical narrative? Why is it important for us to know this? Do you have any questions?

If we don't understand the Biblical narrative, we can believe and behave as if the story revolves around us. On the contrary, the Bible is a story about God and we get to play a supporting role. We will now discover how we can begin to seek God and find our place in His story.

---

# Introduction

## Seek God

### Jeremiah 29:11-13

**Q:** What kinds of plans does Jeremiah say that God has for your life?

**Q:** What does God say is required in order to seek and find him?

- Seek God with your whole heart and he can be found.

**Q:** What do you think it look like to seek God with your whole heart?

### Acts 17:24-27

**Q:** What do we learn about God in verses 24-26?

**Q:** What does it mean that God marked out your appointed time in history and the boundaries of your land? Why would God do this?

**Q:** According to verse 27, what does God desire from you?

### Faith in Action:

1. Start seeking God daily through reading the Bible and praying. Consider reading the Gospel of John everyday together.
2. Download the “How to Read the Bible” handout from our website to help you as you read through the Gospel of John.
3. Set up your next Bible study.