



SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Jesus' resurrection gives me the confidence to trust scripture to guide my beliefs and actions.**

**Our human story is embedded in a more expansive narrative.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**Scripture reveals that I can trust that every detail of my story is a part of the story God is writing.**

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

**The Bible reveals an Upper Story and Lower Stories simultaneously unfolding.**

*The Bible reveals that God creates the world of the Lower Story in His Upper Story.*

Randy Frazee

- **The Lower Story is our individual story of what we do or what's been done to us. It's how we see life from our own perspective.**
- **The Upper Story is the story God has written through the scriptures.**

The Story of the Garden (Genesis 1-11)

The Story of Israel (Genesis 12 - Malachi)

The Story of Jesus (Matthew - John)

The Story of the Church (Acts - Jude)

The Story of a New Garden (Revelation)

(From "The Heart of the Story," by Randy Frazee)

- **The Upper Story is what God is writing; what God has done for us, doing in us, and how He is using us for His purposes.**

## 4 ACTS TO THE EPIC WE LIVE

**Act One: Paradise and Perfect Community with God**

**A loving God created a world with a people to love and to love Him in return.**

Genesis 1:27,31

**Act Two: Paradise Lost**

**Satan and our selfish sin destroy our relationship with God and bring death into our story.**

Genesis 3:4-8

**Act Three: Rescued and Community Restored**

**God the Father rescues humanity from our sin by sending Jesus to die for us and by giving us the Holy Spirit to live in us and give us new life in Him.**

John 3:16



**Epic**  
PART THREE

# CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

## **Act Four: Paradise Restored**

**God creates a new heaven and a new earth for His children to be together with Him forever.**

Revelation 21:1-7

**We can choose God and receive life or we can deny God and suffer eternal death.**

*<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup>He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. <sup>13</sup>“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”*

Matthew 22:11-14 (NIV)

*<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:12-14 (NIV)



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## **TEACHING SUMMARY:**

Everyone loves a good story. But why? Could it be because our lives are written into one big epic? The resurrection of Jesus gives us the confidence to trust the Upper Story that the Bible tells. It’s an epic story of loss, adversity, hope and rescue.

Scripture includes the Lower Stories of individuals to reveal God’s Upper Story. We need to view the events in our Lower Story through the perspective of what God is doing or has already done in our Upper Story.

The Upper Story gives context to our Lower Stories and gives us hope for eternity. This hope is for those who trust in Jesus as Savior and follow Him as Lord. They become the children of God who spend eternity together with God.

This is why we should read and study the Bible. It is the story God has written to reveal His truth to us so we can find life in Jesus.

## **TALK IT OVER:**

What similarities do you see in your favorite movie as you compare it to the four acts of God’s story?

How would you explain the difference between the Lower Story and the Upper Story?

What pain are you facing now that you can put into perspective of God’s Upper Story?

What is one next step you can take today?

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

Mon: Job 38:2-14

Tue: Job 28:1-28

Wed: Psalm 139:1-18

Thu: James 1:5-7; James 3:13-18

Fri: Galatians 6:7-10

Sat: Romans 8:5-17