



*A Pictorial Outline from Genesis to Revelation Illustrating
What God Is Doing in the Story of the Bible*



Teacher Packet

Included in this packet:

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Overview

The Story of the Bible is a simplified biblical theology. In biblical theology we develop one theme while moving chronologically through the Bible. In this case, our theme comes from the question, "What is God doing in the story of the Bible?" We believe that God is always working, and that his work has a purpose – a purpose that is revealed progressively as the story of the Bible unfolds.

One of the limits of this approach is that many details will not be observed. Many interesting and important Bible stories and characters will not be named, like Joshua at Jericho or Peter walking on the water. Key areas of theology will be left untouched – we will not explain justification by faith or address God's sovereignty. This is intentional. We believe that when students have a strong grounding in the basic shape of the story of redemption, they are far better equipped to benefit from these areas than if they had only heard the stories in isolation.

So how does it work? We take the approach of classical educators – memorization. As students memorize the simple summaries (the *grammar*) of what God is doing in the story of the Bible, they build a basic timeline on which to hang the many details of what God is doing in the rest of his word as they continue to learn and grow. The visual and musical aids are primarily designed to reinforce this memorization.

A brief personal note: we have seen the fruit of this approach with our own children. Our two-year-old daughter, who does not always pay careful attention during family devotions, once joyfully recited, "God poured out the Holy Spirit!" after hearing about the Holy Spirit in a Bible reading. Watching countless repetitions of the music video resulted in clear recall of this part of God's salvation plan!

While we hope the outlines, visuals, and audio/video materials are useful to you, we ultimately pray that this curriculum will serve to assist you and your students to more fully know the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is, after all, eternal life! (John 17:3).

Yours in His service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jesse & Diana".

Jesse and Diana Myers

How to Use the Outlines

Since the main learning objective of the Story of the Bible curriculum is memorization of the story line, specific lessons can be taught in a variety of ways, as long as the main points are clear. The following outlines are designed to guide the teacher in how to shape a lesson that will cover these main points. Instead of giving word-for-word lesson texts for teachers to prepare, it is our desire that teachers will internalize the main points and then teach in a way that fits their style and audience.

When using this material in an outreach setting, for example, teachers may choose to relate each passage to the gospel and give an opportunity for students to respond. If the setting is more mature, teachers may choose to go deeper for one part of the story, make some relevant application, and then put the entire lesson back in its context. Our underlying assumption here is that teachers have made the commitment to prepare themselves and their content in a way that is well-suited to their audience.



Lesson 1: Beginnings

Scripture: Genesis 1-11

I. Creation to curse

- A. God created the heavens and the earth (1:1), all living creatures (1:21,25)
- B. God created man, a living creature (1:27; 2:7, 22)
- C. When the man sinned, God punished him by sending him out of the garden (3:23-24)

Q. Where did the life come from?

A. It came from God. God gives life.

Q. What did God do about the sin?

A. He punished it. God punishes sin.

II. Cain to flood

- A. God helped Eve get sons (4:1-2)
- B. After Cain killed Abel, God appointed another son for Eve (4:25)
- C. Because of man's later wickedness, God blotted out every living thing but Noah (7:23)

Q. Where did the sons come from?

A. They came from God. God gives life.

Q. What did God do about mankind's sin?

A. He punished it. God punishes sin.

III. Covenant to Tower of Babel

- A. God kept Noah, family, and animals alive in the ark (8:18-19)
- B. God blessed Noah and his sons to fill the earth (9:1)
- C. When people tried to keep from filling the earth, God confused their languages and scattered them (11:8-9)

Q. How did Noah, his family, and the animals stay alive during the flood?

A. God kept them alive in the ark. God gives life.

Q. What did God do about the people who didn't want to fill the earth?

A. He punished it. God punishes sin.

What is God doing? – As he sets the stage for his story of redemption, God gives life and punishes sin

Key verse – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Lesson 2: Fathers

Scripture: Genesis 12-50

I. Step One: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen 12-28) *God chooses a family.*

- A. God chose Abram (Gen 12:1-3).
- B. God chose Isaac (Gen 17:19, 21).
- C. God chose Jacob/Israel (Gen 25:23).

Q. What did God do for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

A. He chose them.

II. Step Two: Jacob's family (Gen 29-36) *God grows the family.*

- A. God gave Jacob a wife (or two!) (Gen 31:41b)
- B. God gave Jacob 12 sons and 1 daughter (Gen 35:22b-26; 30:21)
- C. God gave Jacob many servants and animals (Gen 30:43; 31:41c)
- D. God built Jacob's family from one man into two camps (Gen 32:10b)

Q. What did God give to Jacob?

A. God gave Jacob wives, children, servants, and animals.

Q. What did this do to the size of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob's family?

A. It made it bigger.

III. Step Three: Joseph (Gen 37-50) *God protects the family.*

- A. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave; Potiphar put him in charge of his house (Gen 37:28; 39:4)
- B. Joseph was unjustly put in prison; he was put in charge of the other prisoners (Gen 39:20, 22)
- C. After interpreting Pharaoh's dream, Joseph was put in charge of Egypt (Gen 41:43)
- D. Joseph used his power to provide for his family during the famine (Gen 47:11-12)

Q. What happened after each bad thing that happened to Joseph?

A. Something good happened to Joseph.

Q. What good thing happened for all of Joseph's family after the bad things happened?

A. They were able to stay alive in Egypt.

What is God doing? – God initiates his plan to deal with sin by choosing, growing, and protecting a family.

Key verse – Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

Lesson 3: Planting a Nation

Scripture: Exodus – Ruth

I. Moses (Exo-Deu)

- A. God brought his people Israel out of Egypt on the first Passover (Exo 12:51)
- B. God gave Israel his law (Exo 20:1)
- C. God taught Israel the way he wanted them to worship him (Exo 25:8-9)

NOTE: God did not bring his people into the land because of unbelief and rebellion

Q. While Moses was alive, what did God do for Israel?

A. He brought them out of Egypt, gave them his law, and taught them to worship. By saving Israel, giving them his law, and teaching them to worship him, God put three important pieces in place to build the nation.

Q. What else do they need? *A. A land*

II. Joshua (Josh.)

- A. God brought Israel into the promised land. (Josh. 3:17)
- B. God fought for Israel to drive out the people who lived in the promised land. (Josh. 23:9-10)
- C. God told Israel how to divide up the promised land. (Josh. 11:23)

NOTE: The possession of the land was incomplete due to unbelief and rebellion.

Q. While Joshua was alive, what did God do for Israel?

A. He brought them into the promised land, drove out their enemies, and helped them divide up the land.

NOTE: This was incomplete due to unbelief and rebellion

By bringing Israel into the land, driving out their enemies, and helping them divide the land, God gave his nation a land to live in.

Q: What else do they need? *A. A leader.*

III. Judges (Jdg. - Ruth)

- A. God judged Israel's sin by letting enemies rule over them. (Judges 2:13-14a; 6:1-2)
- B. God heard Israel's cries. (Judges 2:18b; 6:6)
- C. God delivered Israel through leaders he raised up. (Judges 2:16; 6:14; 8:28)

***The book of Ruth gives a preview of the coming king.

What is God doing? – God's plan to deal with sin continues by planting the family as a nation.

Key verse – The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. (Acts 13:17-20)

Lesson 4: Growing the Nation

Scripture: I Samuel – I Kings 11 (I Chronicles – II Chronicles 9), Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

I. Saul

- A. God granted Israel's request for a human king. (I Samuel 8:22, 12:12-13)
- B. God chose Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. (I Samuel 9:21; 10:1, 20-24)
- C. God rejected Saul as king because of disobedience. (I Samuel 15:22-26)

II. David

- A. God chose a king for Israel who was a man after God's own heart. (I Kings 8:16)
- B. God gave the kingdom to David's family permanently. (II Samuel 7:12-13)
- C. God forgave David's sin when he repented. (II Samuel 12:13)

III. Solomon

- A. God gave the kingdom to David's son, Solomon. (I Kings 2:12)
- B. God gave Solomon great wisdom, riches, and honor. (I Kings 3:12-13)
- C. God gave his nation Israel rest. (I Kings 8:56)

What is God doing? – God's plan to deal with sin continues by growing the nation into a kingdom.

Key verse – And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. (II Samuel 7:10-11)

Lesson 5: Pruning the Nation

Scripture: I Kings 12 (II Chronicles 10) – II Kings 25 (II Chronicles 36); Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, some Psalms and Proverbs

I. Rehoboam/Jeroboam

- A. God tore the kingdom from David's family because of idol worship. (1 Kings 11:31)
- B. God left a part of the kingdom to David's family because of David. (1 Kings 11:32)
- C. The two kingdoms became known as Israel and Judah.

II. Israel to captivity

- A. Israel's first king, Jeroboam, sinned by setting up calves to worship. (1 Kings 12:28)
- B. The rest of Israel's kings followed in this pattern of worshiping idols.
- C. Israel was taken out of the land by Assyria because of idolatry (2 Kings 17:7-8)

III. Judah to captivity

- A. Judah's first king, Rehoboam, sinned by worshiping at high places. (1 Kings 14:23)
- B. Some of Judah's kings served the Lord, but many followed false gods.
- C. Judah was taken out of the land by Babylon because of idolatry. (2 Kings 25:11)

What is God doing? – God punishes the sin of His nation by allowing division and by removing them from the land He gave them.

Key verse - The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy. (II Chronicles 36:15-16)

Lesson 6: Restoring the Nation

Scripture: II Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, some Psalms, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

I. During the exile

- A. God showed his power to human kings through Daniel and friends. (Daniel 1-6)
- B. God removed Babylon and placed Persia as the leading kingdom. (Daniel 5:26-30)

II. Returning from exile

- A. God used the king of Persia to send his nation back to their land. (II Chr 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4)
- B. God protected his people from danger on their return journey. (Ezra 8:31)

III. Back in the land

- A. God used Jeshua, Zerubbabel, Haggai, & Zechariah to help the people rebuild the temple. (Ezra 3, 5:1-2)
- B. God used the king of Persia to protect his people from enemies. (Esther)
- C. God used Ezra to help restore order and purity to the people. (Ezra 7-10)
- D. God used Nehemiah to help the people rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. (Neh 2:5, 6:15)

Event	Date
Cyrus decrees return	538
Temple building begins	537
Temple dedicated	515
Esther	btw. 485-464
Ezra sent to teach the people	458
Nehemiah requests permission from king	445
Wall completed	within 6 mos

Kings of Persia

Cyrus	539-530
Darius I	522-486
Xerxes (Ahasuerus)	485-464
Artaxerxes I	464-423

What is God doing? – God restores and preserves his people after their punishment.

Key verse – “The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy” (Ezra 8:31b)

**Note – God continued to preserve his people through the rise of Greece and Rome.

Lesson 7: Visiting the Nation

Scripture: Matthew 1-4:17; Mark 1:1-15; Luke 1-4:15; John 1:1-34

I. Two babies

- A. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah that John would be born. (Lk 1:13,19)
- B. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that Jesus would be born. (Lk 1:26,30,31)

II. John's ministry

- A. God used John to prepare the way for Jesus by preaching the need for repentance. (Lk 3:3)
- B. God used John to prepare the way for Jesus by baptizing the people. (Lk 3:21a)
- C. God used John's baptism to reveal Jesus as the messiah/anointed one. (Lk 3:21-22, 4:18)

III. The beginning of Jesus' ministry

- A. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism (Lk 3:21-22)
- B. God announced that Jesus was his son at his baptism. (Lk 3:21-22)
- C. The Spirit led Jesus in the desert, where he resisted Satan's temptations. (Lk 4:1,13)
- D. Jesus returned and started teaching in Galilee. (Lk 4:14-15)

What is God doing? – God announces, prepares for, and begins his personal entrance into the story of his nation.

Key verse – “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...” (I Timothy 1:15)

Lesson 8: Rejected by the Nation

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-27:31; Mark 1:16-15:20; Luke 4:16-23:25; John 1:35-19:16a

I. Jesus taught Israel many things.

- A. He taught them about God's standards for righteous living. (Matt 5:20, 48)
- B. He taught his disciples about how to carry out ministry. (Matt 10:16)
- C. He taught them in parables about the kingdom of God. (Matt 13)
- D. He taught his disciples about humility and forgiveness. (Matt 18:4, 35)
- E. He taught about things to come. (Matt 25:13, 46)

II. Jesus did many great signs among the people of God's nation.

- A. Some showed his power to transform. (John 2:1-11)
- B. Some showed his power to heal. (John 4:46-54; 5:1-9; 9:1-7)
- C. Some showed his power to provide. (John 6:1-14)
- D. Some showed his power over creation. (John 6:16-21)
- E. Some showed his power over death. (John 11:38-44)

III. Jesus was eventually rejected by the nation.

- A. He was betrayed by one of the twelve. (Luke 22:3-6, 47-48)
- B. He was denied by the lead disciple. (Luke 22:54-62)
- C. He was tried and accused by the Jewish leaders. (Luke 22:66-23:5)
- D. He was publically declared innocent of wrongdoing. (Luke 23:4, 14, 22)
- E. He was crucified under Pilate as the Jewish leaders demanded. (Luke 23:23-25)

What is God doing? – God reveals himself through the words and works of Jesus, but the nation rejects him.

Key verse – “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.” (John 1:11)

Lesson 9: Saving the Nation

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-28:20; Mark 15:21-16:20; Luke 23:26-24:53; John 19:16b-21:25

I. Jesus died.

- A. He was publically executed with criminals by the Roman government. (Luke 23:32-38)
- B. His death was verified by the Roman authorities. (Mark 15:44-45; John 31-34)
- C. His death fulfilled the words of the prophets. (John 19:24, 28, 36-37)

II. Jesus was buried.

- A. He was buried with the permission of the Roman government. (Matthew 27:57-58)
- B. His tomb was closely guarded and sealed. (Matthew 27:62-66)

III. Jesus rose from the grave.

- A. God sent an angel to roll back the stone from the tomb. (Matthew 28:2-3)
- B. The angel announced to the women that Jesus had risen. (Matthew 28:5-6)
- C. The disciples saw that the tomb was empty, and the grave clothes remained. (Luke 24:12; John 20:6-9)
- D. The chief priests paid the guards to say the disciples stole the body. (Matthew 28:11-15)

IV. Jesus appeared to his disciples.

- A. He appeared to Mary Magdalene. (John 20:11-18)
- B. He appeared to Peter. (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- C. He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and broke bread. (Luke 24:13-35)
- D. He appeared several times to the twelve and ate with them. (Luke 24:36; John 21:1-14)

What is God doing? – Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God makes it possible for him to fully and finally punish his people's sins and to also give them eternal life.

Key verse: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

Lesson 10: From the Nation...

Scripture: Acts 1:1-12:25; James

- I. Jesus' post-resurrection ministry
 - A. Jesus appeared to the disciples and taught them. (Acts 1:1-3)
 - B. Instead of specifics about the kingdom restoration, Jesus appointed the pattern for upcoming Christian mission. (Acts 1:6-8)
 - C. Jesus ascended to heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

- II. The gift of the Holy Spirit
 - A. God poured out the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:1-4)
 - B. God sent the Holy Spirit to the believers in Samaria. (Acts 8:14-17)
 - C. Saul received the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:17-19)
 - D. The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentile believers of Cornelius' household. (Acts 10:44-48)

- III. The expansion of witnesses
 - A. God used Peter as a witness in Jerusalem and to Gentiles in Caesarea. (Acts 2:14-5:42)
 - B. God used Stephen as a witness in Jerusalem. (Acts 6:8-7:60)
 - C. God used Philip as a witness to Samaria and Ethiopia. (Acts 8:5-40)
 - D. God used Saul as a witness in Damascus and Jerusalem. (Acts 9:1-30)
 - E. God used many others as witnesses in Judea, Samaria, Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19-21)

What is God doing? – God sends the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believe his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and beyond.

Key verse: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria...” (Acts 1:8a)

Lesson 11: ...To the World

Scripture: Acts 13:1-28:3; Galatians; I & II Thessalonians; I & II Corinthians; Romans; Philemon; Colossians; Ephesians; Philippians; I Timothy; Titus; I & II Peter; II Timothy; Hebrews; Jude; I, II, & III John.

Intro: Parable of the Tenants (Matthew 21:33-44), an illustration of what is changing.

I. Paul's ministry

- A. Jesus appeared to Saul and appointed him as his apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16)
- B. The Holy Spirit appointed Saul and Barnabas for a mission (Acts 13:1-3)
- C. God used Saul, also called Paul, to expand the spread of the gospel worldwide (Romans 15:19)

II. Paul's ministry to the Jews

- A. Paul's pattern in ministry was to preach the gospel first to the Jews (Romans 1:16)
- B. Some Jews believed in Christ through his preaching (Acts 14:1, 17:11-12)
- C. Unbelieving Jews were Paul's most ardent persecutors (Acts 13:6-8, 50; 14:19)
- D. God used Paul to harden unbelieving Israel (Acts 28:25-27; Romans 11:25)

III. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles

- A. Paul's pattern in ministry was next to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16)
- B. Some Gentiles opposed Paul's ministry (Acts 14:5; 16:19-21; 19:23-34)
- C. Many Gentiles believed in Christ through his preaching (Acts 13:46-48; Romans 15:18)
- D. God used Paul to open a door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 14:27; 28:28)

What is God doing? – God shifts the focus of his salvation program from Jews to Gentiles.

Key verse: “Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles: they will listen.” (Acts 28:28)

Lesson 12: New Beginnings

Scripture: Revelation

Intro: How does God want us to approach Revelation?

- As a “show and tell” from God to his servants (1:1; 22:6)
- With an attitude of alertness and expectation (1:1; 22:6,7,10,12,20; Matt 24:44)
- With a view to hearing and keeping what is written in it (1:3; 22:7,18)

I. The shape of Revelation (1:19)

- A. John’s vision of the Son of Man is what he saw (Past). (1:9-20)
- B. The messages to the churches deal with the things that are (Present). (2:1-3:22)
- C. The rest of the book records the things that are to take place after this (Future). (4:1-22:5)

II. God punishes sin

- A. He removes churches, battles idolatry and immorality, and disciplines sin in his churches. (2:5,16, 22; 3:19)
- B. The seals, trumpets, and bowls show God’s wrath coming on the earth. (6:16-17; 11:18; 16:1)
- C. God judges human forces of evil: Babylon. (17-18)
- D. God destroys spiritual forces of evil: the beast, the false prophet, Satan, Death, and Hades. (19:20; 20:10, 14-15)

III. God gives life

- A. He will give fruit from the tree of life and the crown of life to the one who conquers and is faithful. (2:7, 10)
- B. He breathes life into the two witnesses who were slain. (11:11)
- C. The souls of the martyrs come to life and reign with Christ 1000 years. (20:4)
- D. Only those written in the Lamb’s book of life are allowed to enter the New Jerusalem. (21:27)
- E. In the New Jerusalem are the water of life and the tree of life. (22:1-2)

What is God doing? – God fully and finally punishes evil in all creation, and he also renews heaven and earth.

Key verse: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)

Additional Resources

Check our website, www.music2myers.com, for these and other supplemental resources:

- Music Video
- Song
- E-book
- Picture Index with Flashcards
- 8 ½" x 11" Classroom Printables