

The Story

Session 7: Wandering

Buhler Mennonite Church ZOOM Live – January 27, 2021

“But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?’” Exodus 32:11 (NIV)

1. Opening & Praying



2. Introduction:

God has a great path planned for us that includes joy and intimacy with him; when we choose to take our own route the journey is harder and takes longer.

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** Tell a story about a time you got lost on a drive or a hike.
 - Where did things go wrong and how did you finally find your way home?

- 3. Review:** As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we begin a focus on Movement 2 portion of *The Story*. Read through Movement 1 in review & then begin to commit Movement 2 to memory.

MOVEMENT 1: *In the Upper Story, God creates the Lower Story. God’s vision is to come down and be with us in a beautiful garden. The first two people reject God’s vision and are escorted from paradise. Their decision introduces sin into the human race and keeps us from community with God. At this moment God gives a promise and launches a plan to get us back. The rest of the Bible is God’s story of how he kept that promise and made it possible for us to enter a loving relationship with us.* Movement 1: The Story of the Garden (Genesis 1 – 11)

MOVEMENT 2: *God builds a brand-new nation called Israel. Through this nation, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus --the One who will provide the way back to God.*

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1–11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12–Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew–John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts–Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why did the LORD give the Israelites so much quail to eat?
 - a. They were starving in the desert.
 - b. The people had rejected him.
 - c. To bless their obedience.
 - d. To display his power to the surrounding nations.

- Why did Joshua & Caleb believe the Israelites could take the Promised Land?
 - a. The Israelite army was better trained.
 - b. They had the element of surprise.
 - c. The protection of the Canaanite people was gone.
 - d. They had superior numbers.

- When Joshua was chosen to replace Moses, what spirit was recognized in him?
 - a. The spirit of leadership.
 - b. The spirit of humility.
 - c. The spirit of wisdom.
 - d. The spirit of inspiration.

- Why did Moses challenge the people to choose life?
 - a. They would then be able to love the LORD their God.
 - b. They would then be able to listen to the voice of the LORD.
 - c. They would then be able to hold fast to God.
 - d. All of the above.

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide: As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- Exploration of "the land of milk and honey":
 - The 2nd major problem with road trips is when the driver makes a _____ turn.

 - The Israelites are heading to the fertile land of _____ .

- Conflicting Reports:
 - Which two "spies" give a positive report?

 - The people decide not to move forward out of _____ .

- A 40-year detour:
 - They dragged their _____ into this mess as well.

 - They have a fresh opportunity to _____ God.

- The ultimate GPS system:
 - We would be _____ not to follow God's GPS.

6. **Video Discussion/Journaling:** Write down your answers.

- All throughout this chapter of *THE STORY* God disciplines the people (sometimes quite strongly) to get them back on course. What are the values of being disciplined by one who loves us and wants the best for us?

*Our life is like a road trip. God wants to lead us every step of the way with his GPS.
God sees the picture from the Upper Story and wants the best for us.
God wants us to make it to the final destination and to enjoy the journey.*

- Randy mentioned that there were no less than 10 outbreaks of "juvenile behavior" by the people of Israel during their desert wanderings. How can Christians today be like this--complaining, grumbling, and rebelling against God's leading and plan? Give an example of how you can fall into this pattern if you are not careful.
- Ten of the men who spied on Canaan let their minds and eyes focus on the obstacles (Numbers 13:26-33; *THE STORY*, p. 75). What are ways we can be frozen by fear and fixate on the obstacles rather than the God who can help us overcome them?

Personal Reflections: Ask yourself:

1. Reflect on any ways your life has gotten off course.
2. Ask God to help you recalculate and get back on the right path.
3. Confess where you have been stubborn and rebellious.
4. Think deeply of the grace you have received in Jesus.
5. Then, identify ways you need to change your actions, attitudes, and motives to bring them in line with God's will for you.

*We need to be reminded that whatever choice we make, our lives impact others.
They will experience the blessings of our good decisions and they will experience the pain of our destructive choices.*

6. **Double Check Your Pop Quiz**

Answer Key: b / c / a / d

Video Notes Answer Key: wrong / Canaan / fear / children / trust / fools

7. **Next Week:** Session 8: The Battle Begins (Joshua 1:9)