

# The Story

## Session 3: God Builds A Nation

Buhler Mennonite Church – November 4, 2020

*“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”* Genesis 17:7 (NIV)

### 1. Opening & Praying

- 2. Introduction:** As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we continue our focus on Movement 1 portion of the Story. Read through Movement 1 below several times as you continue to commit it to memory.

*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)

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

### 3. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- What was the promise God gave to Abram?
  - a. I will give you long life.
  - b. I will give you countless offspring.
  - c. I will give you great health.
  - d. I will make you wealthy beyond measure.
  
- Why Did God choose to spare Isaak’s life?
  - a. Abraham pleaded with God to spare his son.
  - b. Isaak was unwilling to go through with it.
  - c. Another sacrifice was made available.
  - d. Abraham feared God.
  
- When Jakob wrestled with the man through the night, what did he want from the man?
  - a. He wanted the man to simply let him go.
  - b. He wanted the wealth the man possessed.
  - c. He wanted a blessing from him.
  - d. He wanted a promise of safety for his family.
  
- Why did Jakob send flocks and herds to his brother Esau?
  - a. He wanted to find favor in Esau’s eyes.
  - b. He knew Esau was in need.
  - c. They were Esau’s flock and herds, and he was returning them.

- d. He found out how stupid sheep can be and didn't want to be a shepherd anymore.

#### 4. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

##### Video Guide:

- A spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ was born in Adam & Eve.
- God thinks differently in the \_\_\_\_\_ story.
- They will see God as the one \_\_\_\_\_ the scenes of their lives.
- Abraham means father of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Moriah is the place that will later become the city of \_\_\_\_\_ .

##### 5. Take Action

- What part of Randy's teaching encouraged or challenged you the most? Why?
- Did anything call you to action? Did anyone have an "aha!" moment?

##### 6. Conversation

*Maria was sharing with Karen about the difficult decision her family was facing. Maria and her husband, Marcus, were praying about whether or not to move to another city based on the great job offer Maria had received. So far, they didn't have clarity. Karen shared her perspective by saying, "if it were me, we would sit down and write out a list of all the pros and cons of accepting the job and moving. Then, we would just look at which list is longer and stronger. I think God gives us clarity for direction by just using our own common sense."*

- If you were in Maria's shoes at this moment in the conversation, what are some of the things you would have to wrestle with as you prepared to respond?
- Based on what you read and learned this week, how do you think Maria should respond to Karen's last statement?

##### 7. Double Check Your Pop Quiz

Answer Key: b / d / c /

**Video Notes Answer Key:** virus / upper / above / many / Jerusalem

##### 8. Next Week: Session 4: Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

*Next week we will look at the incredible highs and lows of Joseph's **Lower Story** journey from slavery to second in command over all of Egypt. God's **Upper Story** is framed in Genesis 50:20.*

