

OUTLINE FOR TODAY: THREE LESSONS THAT CONTINUE THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE ...

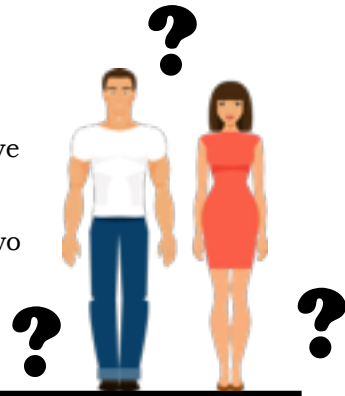
LESSON ONE: IT IS GOD'S STORY, NOT OUR STORY.

- Adam didn't know this. Eve didn't know this. And Cain surely did not know this. They thought it was all about them, just as we make the same mistake. But it is about God.

LESSON TWO: OBEY GOD AND THINGS ARE GOOD.

LESSON THREE: SIN IS READY TO POUNCE.

- **If they had learned lesson one**, then they would not have missed lessons two and three.
- **So if we learn lesson one**, then we won't miss lessons two and three. **Right?**



Whose story are **we** going with?

History is "HIS" story!

- (Isaiah 41:4 GW) Who has accomplished this? **Who has determined the course of history from the beginning?** I, the LORD, was there first, and I will be there to the end. I am the one!
- (Daniel 2:21 GW) **He changes times and periods of history.** He removes kings and establishes them. He gives wisdom to those who are wise and knowledge to those who have insight.
- (1 Corinthians 10:11 GW) These things happened to make them an example for others. These things were written down as a warning for us **who are living in the closing days of history.**
- (Ephesians 1:10 GW) **He planned to bring all of history to its goal in Christ.** Then Christ would be the head of everything in heaven and on earth.
- (Ephesians 3:11 GW) **This was God's plan for all of history which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

GENESIS

First, God. God is the subject of life. God is foundational for living. If we don't have a sense of the primacy of God, we will never get it right, get life right, get our lives right. Not God at the margins; not God as an option; not God on the weekends. God at center and circumference; God first and last; God, God, God.

Genesis gets us off on the right foot. Genesis pulls us into a sense of reality that is God-shaped and God-filled. It gives us a vocabulary for speaking accurately and comprehensively about our lives, where we come from and where we are going, what we think and what we do, the people we live with and how to get along with them, the troubles we find ourselves in and the blessings that keep arriving.

But Genesis presents none of this to us as an abstract, bloodless "truth" or "principle." We are given a succession of stories with named people, people who loved and quarreled, believed and doubted, had children and married, experienced sin and grace. If we pay attention, we find that we ourselves are living variations on these very stories: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and his sons, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Joseph and his brothers. The stories show clearly that we are never outsiders or spectators to anything in "heaven and earth." God doesn't work impersonally from space; he works with us where we are, as he finds us. No matter what we do, whether good or bad, we continue to be part of everything that God is doing. Nobody can drop out—there's no place to drop out to. So we may as well get started and take our place in the story—at the beginning.

[Peterson, E. H. (2005). *The Message: the Bible in contemporary language* (Ge). Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.]