

# GOD'S BIG STORY AND YOU

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This discussion handout accompanies the *God's Big Story and You* video, found on Youtube.

This can be used as part of a workshop or a small group discussion.

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## Task #1: Identity and Story

Read the following and discuss the questions below:

Each of us have tacitly, even unconsciously, composed personal stories about ourselves – stories that we continually revise and tell ourselves in the course of our years. These stories give us insights into who we are, into our identities.

We seek to provide meaning and coherence to all the scattered and confusing experiences of our lives. Certain moments or episodes become central in our memories, even defining, and we arrange all of these particulars into a more or less coherent narrative about who we are and why we are here.

We are not deceiving ourselves or composing lies. Rather, it is through this process of story-making that we discover truths about ourselves.

Insights drawn from: McAdams, Dan P.

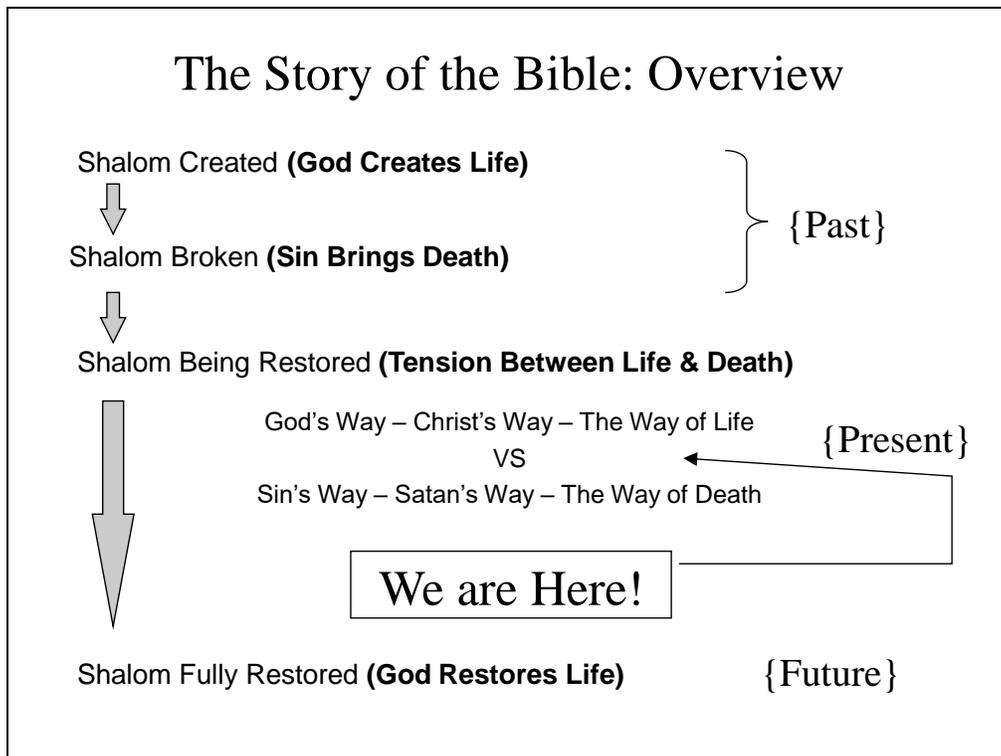
*The Stories We Live by: Personal Myths and the Making of the Self*, (New York: Guilford Press, 1993)

1. Can you appreciate the truths/insights of identity as story? What may be its limitations? Its strengths? Especially in contrast to some other popular ways of exploring identity?
2. How would knowing your personal story help you with living today?
3. As Christians, what are God's and the Bible's roles in all of this? What is the role of community?

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## Task #2: Watch the Video, *God's Big Story and You*

Illustrations in the Video:



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Notes:

Discussion:

1. Does the video's way of summarizing the Bible's story resonate with you? Why or why not?
2. Would you tell this story differently? How?
3. How would you see yourself fitting into this story? Could you see ways in how your personal life story might intersect with God's big story?

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## Task #3: Identifying Your Life Mission

Read the following quote on finding God's calling for your life:

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*

1. What is your first reaction or question to the quote above? Why?
2. How does this relate to our personal life story? And to God's big story?
3. How would you identify your "deep gladness"?
4. How would you identify which of the "world's deep hunger" meet with your deep gladness?

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## Closing Prayer

Consider closing your time together in prayer. If people are comfortable, you can each take turns praying or one person can choose to lead in prayer. Thank God for his Scriptures that provides us a big story of the world. Pray for God to help you and others to find their life mission within God's mission.

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If you appreciate this video and discussion handout, please consider sharing it with others. Also please consider partnering with the ministry with your prayers and with your financial gifts.

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