

The 5 Storylines of Scripture

2 Timothy 2:15 "rightly dividing the Word of Truth"

God

Adversary

Mutiny

**Human
Condition**

**Rescue
&
Restoration**

Response

One or more of these storylines can be found in every story in the Bible. Below are some questions to ask in order to get the message God Intended. Let the Holy Spirit be your teacher and guide. Learn to draw the meaning out of God's Word.

1. What does this passage teach about **God**? (His character, nature; how He does things; what He expects, His promises)
2. What does this passage teach about our **adversary**? (his nature, purposes, tactics; oftentimes he is behind the scenes)
3. How is humanity's **mutiny / rebellion** against God revealed? (since Genesis 3, sin is always a factor)
4. Because of mutiny, how has the **human condition** been effected? (what consequences & effects of sin are revealed?)
5. How is God's plan of **rescue & restoration** revealed? How is **Jesus** revealed? (salvation, mercy & grace are present)

Response

How should I respond to the truths revealed? How can I submit to God? How should I resist the adversary? How should I resist the rebellion of my flesh? How does my heart and mind need to be changed and renewed? How should I respond to Jesus Christ? How can I put my faith in action? How can I love God & love my neighbor?

Thanks to Jim Martin & Doug Greenwold for this framework.

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The Bible is One Big Story that Leads Us to Jesus

We read and study the Bible in order to get a correct view of the God who made us. The viewpoint we have of God is what shapes our lives – our decisions, our lifestyle, our morality, our relationships, our perspectives, etc. Having an incorrect view of God leads to idolatry. Idolatry is serious business to God. It always leads to death and destruction. Without the knowledge of the Scriptures, we will create and serve a god made from our own imagination and thoughts - an idol. Jesus came to straighten all this out.

The Scriptures are God's viewpoint of Who He is (Father, Son & Spirit) and what He desires for us (His will). God is the main character of the Story and His plans and purposes are the plot. When you read the Bible, look for God first and foremost and Jesus in particular. The Scriptures teach us about the God who loves us beyond our wildest dreams. Jesus is the proof of this love. God invites us into His-Story (History) and He longs to be invited in our story. Jesus told us the entire story points directly to Him.

As you read, you will see how some of the people in The Story choose to cooperate and respond in faith. Some choose to resist and go their own way. Seeing these individuals will often be like looking in the mirror. Learn from their faith and their failures.

The Bible answers our greatest questions - Who is God? Where did we come from? Why is there evil & suffering? Can anything be done about evil & suffering? What is life all about? Where is the world headed? Is there hope for me? What happens after death? ...and more

You and I have been given the privilege of communicating with the Author of the Bible. While you read, interact with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to reveal what you need to see. He will be faithful to illuminate just what you need for that moment - "daily bread". The Spirit will always guide us to Jesus!

Learn the Text, Live the Text, Teach the Text, Pray the Text, Die the Text. Just like Jesus!

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Jesus, Luke 24:27)