



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Listen to *The Story*

Read Chapter 1 of The Story this week.

Take time to underline or circle the word “good” every time it appears on the first three pages of *The Story*. What does this tell you about God’s intention and plan?

This week in your personal devotion time, use Luther’s explanation of the first article of the Apostle’s Creed as a way of reflecting on God’s continued provision in your life.

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God’s story and your story connect this week.

God intended the command *not* to eat of that one tree as a blessing: Adam and Eve had the opportunity to worship God through their obedience and express their love for Him in concrete ways.

Can you think of times in your life when your obedience has helped you experience and share God’s love?

Can you think of times when you have missed an opportunity?

God’s response to sin was both judgment and grace: there were consequences *and* the promise of a coming Savior. Share with someone a story of consequences and forgiveness in your life.

How does Genesis 3 point us to Jesus?

How does Genesis 3 affect my week?

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Write a thank you note every day this week. Address at least two of them to God. Keep an eye out for the kinds of things we need for this body and life that we take for granted. Consider attaching a thank you note to God in your offering next week in worship.

Luther's Explanation

From the very first story of the very first family, sin wreaks havoc on humanity. With each successive story—Cain and Abel, Noah's family and beyond—we see God's repeated faithfulness to redeem helpless and hopeless humanity. God is always the pursuer. Humanity's default position is always to choose sin. Martin Luther wrote about this in his writing, *On the Bondage of the Will*, where he maintained that sin incapacitates human beings from working out their own salvation, and that they are completely incapable, on their own, of bringing themselves to God. As the cycle continues, we are reminded that God alone is our only hope.



PROMISE

The whole Story points us to God's love for us in Christ. This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"I created you. I love you.

Your sin will not keep us apart."

The EXTRA Mile

Grab a family photo album that has some shots of you enjoying the outdoors. Ask:

- **What do you remember most about this experience?**
- **What are some of your favorite things about God's creation?**
- **How can you see God's handiwork in the outdoors?**
- **Where are some places you'd like to visit?**



Remind yourself that all people are important to God by taking some food to a local food bank or going through your closets and making a donation to a homeless shelter or other donation center.