



THE STORY *continues...*

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

Chapter 7: Battle Begins

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 7** of *The Story* this week.*

As you read, ask yourself who is in charge around here? Who is fighting these battles? Notice (maybe underline or circle) how often God shows He is in control. But then also notice the response the people of God are given to do.

Learn *The Story*

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

The theology of the conquest both affirms WHO GOD is and rejects what the people of the land thought their gods were like. You can find some of these distinctions below.

Make your own list of things in your life that you would say "We Profess," or "We Reject." Is it an attitude in a TV show? A view of God expressed by a political candidate? Something a friend says? The actions of someone in your family? What affirms what you believe and what does your faith cause you to reject? Keep an on-going list this week, and make sure your list of things you affirm is as long as the things you reject! (It's easy to get stuck in the negative!)

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Most of us don't face life or death situations during our normal week that require us to express our faith in Jesus. At the same time, our lives are to reflect what we believe. Don't let that profession of faith remain implicit this week: write up a personalized "Here I Stand, I Can Do No Other; God Help Me."

Make it something a friend could read at your funeral as an example of your faith and trust in God. It doesn't have to long, but it should be personal: here's what God has done for me and here's what my faith in Jesus looks like! Share it with a friend.

Luther's Explanation

Martin Luther, a professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg, was well-versed in the Old Testament. Yet, he would always filter the Old Testament through the lens of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Here is a good example: This week, we come to know the figure of Joshua. The name "Joshua" means, "Jehovah saves." The name, "Jesus," in the New Testament comes from Greek name, "Iesous," a rendition of "Joshua." This is what Martin Luther says of the Old Testament figure, Joshua: "Joshua denotes Christ, because of his name and because of what he does. Although he was a servant of Moses, yet after his master's death he leads the people in and parcels out the inheritance of the Lord. Thus Christ, who was first made under the Law (Galatians 4:4), served it for us; then, when it was ended, He established another



ministry, that of the Gospel, by which we are led through Him into the spiritual kingdom of a conscience joyful and serene in God, where we reign forever." (Luther's Works, Vol. 9, p. 43)

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"I am the One True God: I will fight for you!"

The EXTRA Mile

Martin Luther was once in a position, like Joshua, where he had to make a public profession of his faith with his life on the line. Rent your favorite Luther movie this week or pick up a biography—the life of the reformer is an adventure story focused on God's Word!

Here are some book and movie suggestions:

Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career by James Kittelson



Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings
edited by
John Dillenberger

Luther Starring Joseph Fiennes, Jonathan Firth
and Alfred Molina