

## Sermon: God on Mission

### **IN** *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. What is the earliest recollection of a Bible story that you recall?  
Who told it to you? Where did you hear it?
2. How many Bibles do you currently have in your home?

### **UP** *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. How did the Apostle Paul describe God's eternal Mission in Ephesians 3:11 and Colossians 1:20?  
What is the purpose of God's mission? (Revelation 5:5; 7:9)
2. Open your Bibles to the page of contents. How many Books are in the Old Testament? How many in the New?  
Which Books are most familiar to you?
3. Why is it that God can call His Creation 'good' and 'very good'?  
In what chapter of which book does sin enter the story?  
What is the speaker's definition of sin? What is the definition of 'death'?  
What does it mean that Adam is our 'federal head'?
4. How does Genesis 3:15 explain the primary conflict of the Bible?
5. Briefly tell who each of the following is. What Bible Book is their story in? Why are none of them the 'serpent crusher'?  

Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses,  
Ruth, David, Solomon, Esther, Daniel, Isaiah.
6. What makes Jeremiah 31:33-34 a key Old Testament passage in God's Mission story?
7. Explain why Jesus is the 'serpent crusher.'

### **OUT** *Seek to be the Community of God's people in your community*

1. What steps do you need to take to improve your understanding of the whole Bible story?
2. Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear the story?  
When will you tell it to them?

*UP – IN – OUT reflect a balanced life including a focus on our personal relationship with the Father (UP), staying connected to the Body (IN), and reaching our world (OUT).*

### **THE WORD (NIV)**

#### **Genesis 3:15**

...And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

#### **Jeremiah 31:33-34**

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

#### **Ephesians 3:11**

... according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **Colossians 1:20**

... and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

#### **Revelation 5:5; 7:9**

<sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." ... <sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

# Sermon Study Summary

This message was a 26-minute summary of the story of the Bible.

God is on an eternal mission (Eph 3:11). It is to reconcile to Himself all things through the person and work of Jesus Christ (Col 1:20). Why? It is so that He can gather worshippers from every tribe and nation around the throne of the Son, also known as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and a King who is the son of David — Jesus (Rev 7:9). There is a record of the fulfillment of that mission. That record is the Bible.

In the beginning was God (Gen 1:1). He spoke creation into existence and pronounced morality over His creation by saying 'this is good,' including mankind as 'it is very good.' Everything that flows out of God is good because He is good. Soon conflict enters the story. Satan, a fallen angel and eternal enemy of God tempts Eve to sin. Sin is removing God from the equation. To partake from the tree of the 'knowledge of good and evil' is sin, for God is the source of all knowledge. Christ holds all creation together. If, by our actions, we remove God from them, the consequences are to cease to exist. This is called death. In Romans we learn that Adam and Eve are our 'federal head.' This means that what they did applies to us. For example, if our 'federal head' the Prime Minister, declares war on another country, we are at war no matter how we voted. In the same way, Adam and Eve ate the fruit so we ate the fruit. Our problem then, because of our/their actions is sin and death, resulting in eternal separation from the creator God.

God, in Genesis 3:15 said He will bring enmity between the serpent and the woman's offspring who will crush the serpent's head. That is the plot of the Bible. We need the 'serpent crusher' to beat death. Thus, we follow the family line through Adam and Eve. Mankind opted to take God out of the equation more than once (Gen 6, 11) but God rescued the family line through a series of dramatic close calls. Then we see the Bible focus on an old man named Abraham. The story tells us to follow his story. God fulfilled His promise to two aged people battling infertility and provided a son (Isaac) who narrowly escaped being sacrificed before God provided a lamb to be the sacrifice. One of Isaac's sons, Jacob, in turn had twelve sons. Two of them, Judah and Joseph are the focus. Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, ended up as Prime Minister of Egypt. He saved his family from famine (Gen 49:10) understanding that Judah needed to live. 350 years later millions of Israelites live in slavery in Egypt. Moses was born and through another miracle was adopted into Pharaoh's family, though he fled after killing a man. Forty years later and after 430 years of silence from God, He reentered the story and commissioned Moses to liberate His people. This was accomplished through ten plagues.

The last of the ten plagues was the Death Angel who killed the first-born in every household that did not have the blood of a perfect lamb painted over its door posts. The Death Angel 'passed over' the houses of the Israelites, and killed the first-born in every home of the Egyptians. Pharaoh ejected them from Egypt. Israel comes out of slavery under the blood of the lamb to unity and harmony with their God.

However, soon after meeting God they again tried to remove Him from the equation and turned to immorality. This repeated many times as the story continued through the Israelites' desert wanderings, Judges, Ruth and Joshua. The bottom line: they needed a king and the story told of the generations leading to this king and how God watched over and protected the line of Judah. Israel needed a sacrifice. The family tree focused on Judah and in the desert God renewed the covenant (Lev-Deut). Joshua led the people into the Promised Land beginning with the city of Jericho. Alas it seemed to go downhill from there.

David became King and was given a special covenant — where one of his line would rule forever — a hint of the 'serpent crusher.' We see his family line continue until the Kingdom split into two. 1 and 2 Kings followed the Northern Kingdom's history of Israel. 1 and 2 Chronicles followed the history of Judah in the South. Their sin continued, but 'because of his promise to his servant David' God did not destroy them though they are exiled for a time. Prophets emerged to tell Israel to stop sinning (removing God from the equation) and hinted of a new covenant to come (Jer 31:33-34). More hints spoke of God expanding His mission to reach even the Gentiles. After this, God again went silent for 400 years.

God spoke to a girl and her fiancé from Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah. Their son would be called Jesus for He would save His people from their sins. Drama ensued. Mary survived the scandal of a virgin birth, a desert journey in her ninth month, and attempts on the baby's life by Herod, fleeing to Egypt for a time. Now, 430 years later, Jesus emerged. Before we had the Passover Lamb; now we see the Lamb of God (John 1:29). After Jesus' baptism the serpent and the 'serpent crusher' faced off in the wilderness. Jesus prevailed and ministered for three years. At the end Jesus took the Passover Supper that for thousands of years had been about 'that time' in Egypt, and made it about 'Himself' and spoke of a New Covenant. Then He was arrested, tried and executed because someone had to die for our sin that we might live. The 'serpent crusher' was bruised but after three days He came back to life. Sin's debt had been paid. We can again be reconciled to the Father. That is why you and I are here today — 2000 years later gathering to worship the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and serpent crusher and Son of David and forever King Jesus.