

SESSION 5 LISTENING GUIDE

TIMELINE.

Review

Plotline: God is stepping in to help clean up the mess that sin has created. (Gen. 12:1-3)

Bless the World = Redemption.

As promised, God made Abraham famous. The major middle eastern world religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) are all connected to Abraham in some way.

The Structure of the Old Testament

First **5** Books: Books of Law

Next **12** Books: History Books

- The entire timeline of the OT is found in these first 17 books.
- Genesis - Esther is basically in chronological order.

Middle **5** Books: Wisdom/Poetical Books

Final **17** Books: Prophets

- The last 22 books (Poetical/Prophets) are not in chronological order.
- Job - Malachi speak into the story told in Genesis - Esther.

The New Testament

The New Testament continues and completes the storyline of redemption from the Old Testament.

The Gospel (Good News) in the context of the story of God **is not**: *You believe and you get to go to heaven.*

The Gospel **is** that JESUS is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to bless the world.

When we start at the end (the New Testament) we miss out on so much of the awesomeness and depth of God.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The best way to bless the world is to tell them about Jesus.

SESSION 5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Everybody loves a great story. Share some of your favorite movies/books and why you like them so much. Do any of the favorites you discussed share a common theme?
- 2) In your own words, explain the plotline of the Bible. How/where does the idea of redemption/"bless the world" fit into this?
- 3) Discuss how John 3:16 becomes so much more significant when read in the context of Genesis 12:1-3.
- 4) Danny said that in the New Testament "the story finds its hero" - what does this mean? Who is this hero?
- 5) "The Gospel (Good News) in the context of the story of God **is not**: *You believe and you get to go to heaven.*" If this is true, then what is the good news? Is this a new thought for you? Does this statement challenge what you have always thought? What are your thoughts about this? Explain.
- 6) Read Acts 1:8. In the context of Genesis 12:1-3 and John 3:16, why is Acts 1:8 so important?
- 7) Share a takeaway from today's teaching and/or discussion. Did you learn anything new? Have you been challenged personally by anything that you heard?

Resource: "How to Read the Bible Book by Book"