

THE WAY

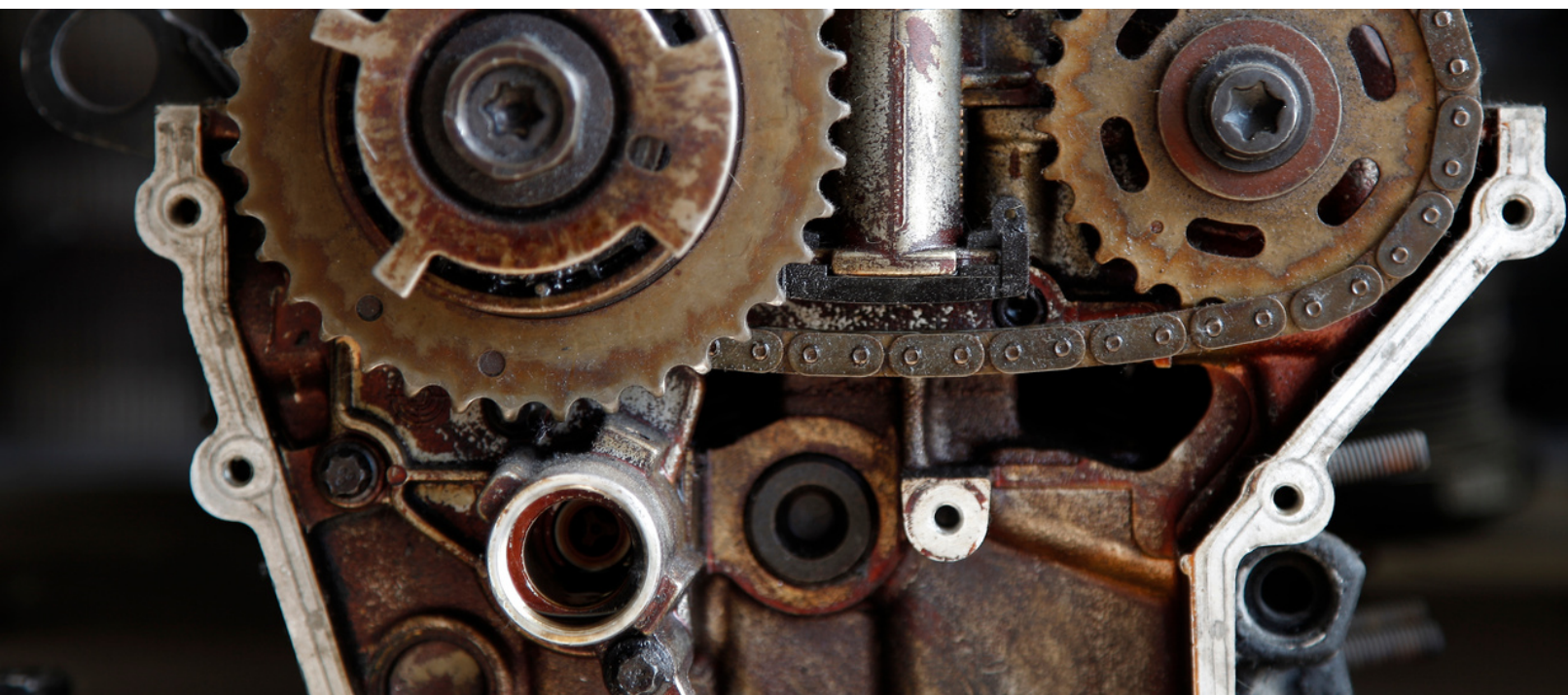
WALKING THROUGH THE BIBLE
WITH THE WAY-MAKER HIMSELF



This curriculum will demonstrate that the Bible is a miraculous single story told by One Author. It will highlight the “plot” of the story, and the most important “sub plots” that result, always keeping Jesus central. The goal is to teach children what it means to abide in Christ, and to introduce how we do that through obeying Jesus (John 15:1-8). We want to help children learn the most important principles being taught through the miraculous story, rather than a list of truths and memorization verses. We want them to know the contents of the books of the Bible and how they are a part of the story, and help them learn to question proposed doctrines by asking, “Does this fit the story, or not?”

The Bible is literal history and it’s also HisStory. The Bible is woven together so perfectly in unison that it operates like a mysterious and miraculous machine - one part connecting to other parts, gears intertwining in order, and everything pointing to Jesus.

The story is presented at first, as a mystery. We were abiding with God in the garden of Eden, but then are not. Yet, at the end (in Revelation), we are back in God’s presence. What happened to bring us out of His presence? How do we get back? Why is it critical that we “do life” moment by moment with God, staying conscious of Him and His commands? How do we obey when some of the commands seem impossible to keep? As we move through the curriculum, we will begin to answer these questions as we understand more and more of the story God presents to us in His word.



THE BACKGROUND

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CURRICULUM

God created us to be images of Himself in the world, to grow up to “resemble Father” (Gen 1:26-27). The Bible teaches that this primarily involves acquiring God’s character. God’s character traits are described as the “fruit” (manifestation, evidence, proof) of His Spirit in numerous passages (Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9; Philip 1:11; Col 1:10; Heb 12:11; James 3:17-18, etc.). We can only acquire His character by having a close relationship with Him, living (“abiding”) with Him, learning and just “picking up on” His character as a child learns language and behavioral traits by living with parents.

Sin separates us from God and puts us instead in the “house” of Satan (Pharaoh’s “house” in Egypt depicts this). We become imagers of him rather than God. In salvation, a person is “delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col 1:13, NKJV). We are adopted and then pulled out of Satan’s “home” and into God’s home. This is depicted in Exodus 1-14. God’s home is usually depicted as a garden or with garden motifs (the temple decorations of trees, pomegranates, etc.). The fruit only grows in the garden, and the garden is found only where God is abiding. At Pentecost, God makes His home in human beings, newly cleansed of sin by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. We are now His garden, producing the fruit of His Spirit (Ps 1).

The Great Commission is to make disciples who obey King Jesus’ commands, particularly as He relates in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7). His commands keep us in intimate relationship with God, abiding in His presence, “doing life” with God in everyday moments and events, rather than just coming over to visit Him at His place Sunday mornings! Disciplining our minds, emotions and bodies to stay in intimate closeness with Him is the only way we can produce the fruit of His Spirit, thereby fulfilling our created purpose of imaging God. Disciplining our minds, emotions and bodies is being a disciple, a disciplined-one.

This is also the key for multiplication (evangelism): as we become more Christlike in God’s Spirit of selfless desire to benefit others - even His enemies - people are drawn to Him (Mt 5:38-45). As God told us on page one of the story, “in the fruit is the seed for more of the same kind” (Gen 1:11-12 among others). Living Christlike lives, we can then “give an answer for the hope in us” (1 Pet 3:15) and to present the Gospel by which God draws people to Himself and to Jesus.

The process of teaching a newly saved person how to abide in Christ so they, too, can produce the Fruit of God’s Spirit and then be used by God to draw more people to Jesus through the Gospel is called “discipleship.” Discipleship simply entails teaching people how to discipline their worldly minds, emotions and bodily cravings to stay in the garden-like presence of Jesus, to abide in Him. The disciplines do not make us Christlike; the Holy Spirit does that. Practicing the disciplines so that we are truly disciples is an act of loving God with all our heart, soul and strength, and loving others as ourselves. In children’s ministry, discipleship will be emphasized as obeying parents, who are helping them learn how to discipline themselves.

Therefore, the focus of equipping the church for ministry is to help people become true disciples who “set their minds on things above, and not on things on the earth.” It is to help people “put off the old man” and to “put on the new man.” It is to “resist being conformed by the world, but to instead be transformed by the renewing of the mind” (Rom 12:2).

SEPT.

Unit One - The Last and The First Garden

September 13 Intro - Revelation - Fall Kick-off - Sunday, September 13
September 20 The First Garden: Genesis
September 27 The Fruit and The Seed: Genesis

OCT.

October 4 The Two Trees: Genesis
October 11 The Liar: The Fall in Genesis

Unit Two - Again, and Again, and Again

October 18 The Promise of the Seed: Genesis
October 25 Bad Fruit: Cain & Abel

NOV.

November 1 A Lot of Bad Fruit: Adam's Family to Noah
November 8 Their Own Way: The Tower of Babel

Unit Three - Waiting, and Waiting, and Waiting

November 15 Abraham & Isaac
November 22 Jacob & Joseph
November 29 Moses

DEC.

December 6 Joshua
December 13 David
December 20 Malachi & Jesus' Birth - Christmas
December 27 AGES 4-11 OFF FOR CHRISTMAS

Unit Four - Jesus, The King

January 3 Matthew - Abiding with God, Imaging God
January 10 Matthew's Focus - Jesus as the Way: Kingly Ministry
January 17 Joseph in Egypt with New Eyes

JAN.

Unit Five - Jesus, The Priest

January 24 Mark - Abiding with God, Imaging God
January 31 Mark's Focus - Jesus as the Way: Priestly Ministry

FEB.

February 7 Moses in the Wilderness with New Eyes

Unit Six - Jesus, The Prophet

February 14 Luke - Abiding with God, Imaging God
February 21 Luke's Focus - Jesus as the Way: Prophetic Ministry
February 28 Joshua in the Promised Land with New Eyes

MARCH

Unit Seven - Jesus, The Way

March 7 John - Abiding with God, Imaging God
March 14 John's Focus - Jesus as the Way: Priest+Prophet+King=Complete
March 21 Jesus is the New Adam: Perfect Seed, Fruit, Abiding, and Image!
March 28 AGES 4-11 OFF FOR EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL

April 4 David in the Kingdom with New Eyes

Unit Eight - The Church

April 11 Luke - Acts: The Seed's Seed - The Church Abiding, Imaging, Blessing
April 18 Peter: The Seed's Seed - Acts 12
April 25 Acts / Epistles: The Church - Tending and Keeping the Garden of God

Unit Nine - Abiding and Imaging

MAY

May 2	Abiding for All, Filling the Earth: The Global Garden: Rev 22
May 9	The Revelation of Jesus Christ...In You!
May 16	The Holy Spirit in Jesus and the Church: the 4 Living Creatures & You
May 23	The Tabernacle / Temple and You
May 30	Imaging: Love & The Sacrifices

JUNE

June 6	Imaging: Faith of Jesus & His Shadows: Faith as Faithfulness
June 13	Imaging: Hope as Our GPS: The Hope of Jesus & His Shadows
June 20	Abiding: The Disciplines of a Disciple

Summer dates coming!

Summer topics: Egypt, The Wilderness & The Promised Land as Discipleship