



Us. The Story of God and People | Notetaking: 3...2....1 | Session #4

This format is to help you to take notes during this session's teaching. After the teaching, consider allowing everyone to share their responses to the following:

THREE ideas that stood out from the teaching:

TWO new things I learned from this teaching:

ONE important question I have from this session:

Group Discussion Guidelines:

We want this to be a safe place to learn and share, so here are a few ground rules to make this journey a positive experience for everyone.

1. Commit to confidentiality.
2. Please do not use your cellphone during this time.
3. Refrain from giving unsolicited advice; it can feel like criticism.
4. Use “I” statements rather than “you” statements.
5. It’s important to participate but please do not dominate.
Please leave room for everyone to speak.



Us. The Story of God and People | Devotion + Discussion | Session #4

Below are some optional questions for personal reflection or group discussion:

"Creation will be made whole when humanity finds its purpose, power, and potential realized in relationship with its creator."

"God is the larger context and plot in which our stories find themselves." Eugene Peterson

"All humanity is enslaved to a foreign king – Sin – and in need of rescue and redemption. "

1. In Genesis 3, how did God show Adam and Eve that He did not revoke their divine potential, purpose, and power after their disobedience?

"The relational, love-woven fabric of creation can be restored when and where God and his people are living together in partnership and intimacy."

2. "The Law" is the covenant God makes with Israel.
Why is this an essential step for Abraham's descendants who were just rescued from Egyptian slavery?
3. The Story doesn't end after Israel is rescued from Egypt!
What else is needed after the Israelites are 'saved'?
How is this similar Christians being "saved"?
4. God's presence is what sets us apart.
How do you recognize God's presence in your everyday life is changing you and making a difference?

PRAYER: Invite the Holy Spirit to come and change your vision to His.

"Lord, I need a new vision, help me to see things differently...things like...."

Daily Bible Reading:

This reading plan will help you engage with the scripture's narrative by reading a portion of every book of the Bible in 40 days!

Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28
Ezekiel 11:14-25; Psalm 137; Daniel 9:1-19	1 Chronicles 9:1-2; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21	Ezra 1:1-8; Nehemiah 1:4-11	Esther 8:16-9:4; Haggai 1:1-9; 2:9	Zechariah 1:1-6; 2:1-5; Malachi 4:1-5	John 1:1-14; Matthew 4:23-5:18	Mark 14:12-26; 15:16-47

Engaging in this section will help you to study the Bible on your own and get the most out of our time together in groups. Set aside some time over the week to read the above passage in your own Bible and follow the instructions below.

I. Prayer

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY.

II. Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

1. Write 10 or more observations about the passage:

- **Who** are the main people?
- **Who** is speaking? **Who** is the audience?

- **What** is occurring?
- **When** is this happening?

- **Where** is the passage taking place?
- **How** are people responding?

2. Identify **key words** and phrases.

3. Look for **grammatical connections**: repetition, comparisons, contrasts, a cause and effect (e.g., words like therefore, because, so that, etc.)?

4. Note **verb tense**.

5. Look for **conjunctions** such as *since* and, *therefore*. Why are those words in the sentence?

6. What relevant things do you know or wonder about the **cultural context** of the passage?

To know the context of your passage, you may need to read the pages or paragraphs that precede it. Find some background information here:

Biblestudytools.com | Overviewbible.com | bibleproject.com | Logos.com

III. Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Develop some **questions** based on the text. Ask what the significance of your main observations and why they happened.

EXAMPLE:

- a. *What do these verses reveal about the nature of God?*
- b. *What does the making of the calf teach us about human nature?*
- c. *What are your thoughts/ideas about Moses' reaction to the golden calf? God's reaction to the golden calf?*

2. **Answer** the questions from the text and the context.

3. Imagine the **perspective** of the people in the scene.
How would they understand what's being said/done?

4. Try to **summarize** the passage in one sentence.
What is the **main point** the author is communicating to the audience?

5. What is revealed about God? About us? About how God relates to us?

6. What is revealed about God's Kingdom; the way God rules or cares for creation?
(Characteristics, value system, etc.)

IV. Application

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN FOR US/ME?

1. How do you **respond** to what the passage is saying?
Does it challenge how you see the world?

2. Is there a central **truth** that you need to put into practice or align with?

3. What are the implications for you or your **community**?

4. Pray that God will help you believe and align.
Leave room to experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit.