

The Story: Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is The Story and why are we doing it at East Win?

The Story is a book that condenses the Bible into 31 accessible chapters. Although it is not the Bible in its entirety, *The Story* is a tool that uses thoughtfully chosen and carefully excerpted portions of Scripture. *The Story* also includes written transitions and reads like a novel that begins in Genesis and ends in Revelation, covering the Bible chronologically.

The idea is that after reading *The Story* together as a church we will all have experienced the Bible in a brand new way. Hopefully you will be glued to every page, wrapped up in the lives of the characters, wanting to know more about the Author of this incredibly intense, heart-warming, life-changing true story.

For East Win, 2013 promises to be an incredible year as we all immerse ourselves in the words on the pages of the Bible. We expect God to move in big ways in the lives of our church family as our faith grows stronger and deeper through inviting His words of redemption and hope into our lives.

Are we using The Story instead of the Bible this year?

The book *The Story* is not meant to replace the Bible. It is simply a tool to help us experience the Bible better. As always, the Bible will be our ultimate guide and the final authority in our lives.

Why should I have a copy of The Story when I already have a Bible?

The Story includes written transitions, timelines, discussion questions, and other valuable resources that we will be using all year long. We strongly recommend that everyone have a personal copy of *The Story*. You won't be disappointed. *The Story* presents the Bible in a very easy-to-read format that we will be referencing all year long at East Win. In addition to reading the book, you will most likely use it as a workbook, writing all sorts of notes and thoughts in the margin and highlighting what sticks out to you.

Do I need to bring both The Story and my Bible to church with me?

We suggest that you do. We will be referencing both throughout the service. We will be asking you to use it as a workbook during the messages, suggesting you make notes in the margins and underline/highlight sections along the way. In addition, your children and teens will also want to bring their books with them.

Where can I get a copy of The Story? Do my children and teens need a copy?

Copies of *The Story* are available for purchase in the church lobby. You'll also find *The Story for Children* available for purchase for your children in the church lobby. The *Teen Edition* of *The Story* will be available at the One Way student ministry. We recommend that kindergarten through high school students have a personal copy of the edition for their age group. Preschool children will also be studying the same topics but you do not need to purchase a book for them.

Should I read a chapter of The Story before I come to church each weekend?

Yes. You will know in advance which chapters we will be covering when. It will be of great benefit to you to read the chapter before coming to church on Sunday.

Is there a reading schedule I can follow?

Yes. We will release the reading schedule in sections throughout the year as we release sermon titles. The reading schedule will be available on line at www.eastwin.org and in the weekly bulletins.

When are we beginning *The Story*?

The kickoff Sunday is January 27th. You will not need to read anything for this weekend. January 27th will just present an overview of *The Story* and where we are headed with it this year. However, you will want to read chapter one of *The Story* before Sunday, February 3rd.

Is the entire church really studying the same thing this year?

Yes. From young to old, we will all be studying the same chapters of *The Story* every week. We want to be threaded together as a church family this year by studying the same parts of the Bible at the same time, so you can have a conversation with your friends in a different Sunday School Class than you and the stories will be reinforced. You can go home and have a conversation with your teenager or your third grader and the stories will be reinforced. Do you see the benefit? God's Word will be so ingrained in us that it really does become living and breathing to us.

Will it really take the entire year to go through *The Story*?

Yes. There are 31 chapters in *The Story*. We will study these chapters in sections with a few breaks throughout the year. You will know when we will break from *The Story*. Watch online and in your weekly bulletin for information and updates.

If I hear the message on Sunday, what would be the benefit of also discussing the same topic in my Sunday School class or Small Group?

You might be thinking that studying the same chapter of a book in every area of the church may get redundant. We promise you, though, it won't. There is so much meat packed in every chapter that we hope when you come to the Sunday service you will get one perspective and then in your Sunday School Class/Small Group you will get another perspective. Through these different perspectives the Word will just continue to deepen inside of us. You will still greatly benefit from attending Sunday services and a Sunday School Class/Small Group study this year.

What are some ways I can incorporate *The Story* into my home life?

Read the chapters in *The Story*. Maybe go back and read the text in the Bible. Reflect on how to apply the lessons we're learning. If you have younger children, read their storybooks with them. If you have older children, encourage them to read on their own. Ask them what they learned this weekend, and try to have a deep conversation with them that includes more than just one-word answers. Go over their memory verses. Just make *The Story* a part of your everyday conversations with your family.