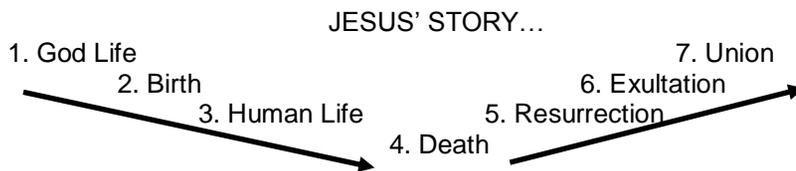
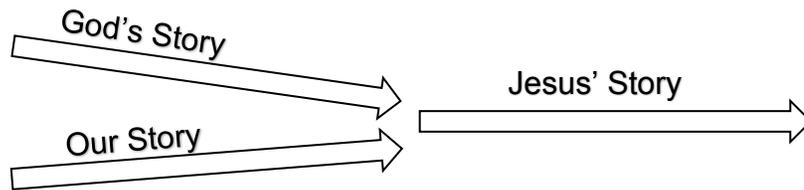


Week 1: *The Story of Everything*

APPETIZER: The Story of Jesus



We want to be even more spiritual than God. Where Jesus speaks to us of life, of the body, of the world, we would have preferred that he talked to us of the secrets that lie beyond the tomb. The humanity of God bugs us. That's right: the humanity of God. Something the first Christians discovered with great apprehension. I'd better correct myself. It's not that the Christians, after becoming solidly Christian, discovered the humanity of God as something else to talk about, something that could be added to their theological ideas. The truth is the opposite. It was when they discovered that to talk about God it is necessary to quit talking about God and to talk about a person, a face, a life. That's when they became Christians. God, to talk about himself, became man. To talk about God is to talk about a man. The word made flesh. Our brother. One of us. He was born, lived, died.

~ Rubem Alves (I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body)

Philippians 2:5-11

DINE IN: The Story of Jesus is the Story of...

Colossians 2:7-3:4

1. God
**John 1:1; Phil 2:5-11
Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9**
2. Israel
**Isaiah 42:6-7; also 49:6; John 8:12; also 1:9; 9:5
Colossians 1:11, 16-17**
3. Us / The Church
**Galatians 6:15-16
Colossians 3:1-4**
4. The Universe
 - Jesus is "firstfruits" of us (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23)
 - And we are "firstfruits" of the universe (Romans 8:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:18)**Colossians 2:20-3:4**

TAKE OUT: Centring on the Centre of Everything

Colossians 2:3

Every day this week...

1. Read from the book of **Colossians**.
2. Set time aside to be "still here" – meditate on one verse, sentence, phrase, word, or idea. Aim for 5-10 minutes.
3. End your time in a prayer of absolute gratitude.
4. Recall the truth of Jesus throughout your day and take note of how centring on the Centre is making a difference in you and your interactions with others.
5. Talk with someone else on the same journey about their experiences and insights (e.g., Home Church, Huddles, or equivalents).

NOTE: If you need help remembering, or will benefit from being prompted, follow Bruxy and/or The Meeting House on social media (twitter, Instagram, fb), **turn on your notifications**, and pay attention to the regular reminders.

NEXT WEEK: Part 2 of The Death and Life of God: Those Dry Bones!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. This series is about live and death and life again. How have you experienced this pattern in your life, in big or small ways?
2. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Colossians 2:7-3:4**.
 - a. What are your first impressions about this passage?
 - b. Review. What are the elemental forces this passage addresses that are potentially taking Christians captive? If Paul was writing this to The Meeting House today, what are some possible contemporary examples that he might list?
 - c. Paul says we believers have been circumcised, buried, and resurrected "in Christ". What do you think Paul means by being "in Christ"? What do each of these things we have experienced in Christ mean practically for us?
 - d. What was nailed to the cross? Why is this such good news?
 - e. If Jesus "disarmed" the spiritual forces of the Enemy at the cross, why does Satan seem to still cause so much trouble today?
 - f. FLASHBACK: In our "Her Story" series, we talked about the idea of the word "head" often meaning source of life more than mere authority. How do you see it being used here of Jesus and the Body of Christ? Do you recall what difference this might make for how we exegete 1 Corinthians 11 and Ephesians 5 about men being the "head" of women?
 - g. What do you think it means to "set your minds on things above and not on earthly things"? How can we avoid using this idea to become so focused on heaven that we give up loving people well on earth?
 - h. Recall verse 7 – What do you do in your daily/weekly life to cultivate a heart that is "overflowing with thankfulness"? Discuss your experiences and practices.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What is God saying to you, convicting you of, or encouraging you about this week? How are you responding?

Embrace our role as leaders in a growing Anabaptist movement.

Pray we will become closer to Jesus vision of unity across the Church--for Jesus Collective to be a catalyst for churches to equip each other in finding better ways to impact others with the Jesus-centred message across North America and beyond.

Note: complete Prayer Guide can be found here
themeetinghouse.com/prayerguide

April 7/April 14, 2019 // @bruxy