

Life@Large

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 recognition · fulfillment · love · intimacy · relationships · prickly things
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Every person has a story—a life story. What's yours? Have you ever stopped to consider how your story fits into the story of Life@Large?

Life@Large is the story of life. It's God's story and our story, woven together with themes of the Bible—from beginning to end.

FOR STARTERS

How much exposure have you had to the Bible?
 What is your present attitude toward it?

1 INTIMACY

From the beginning, relationships have been woven into the tapestry of our lives. God fashioned us as masterpieces that would reflect our Creator's image. We were designed to experience intimacy, loving God and each other.

God's Story

- ◆ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- ◆ *When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have set in place—what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us?*
- ◆ *...God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them.*

Selections from Genesis 1:1; Psalm 8:3,4; Genesis 1:27.

Your Story

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current desire to know God personally? (Ten is the highest) Why?

2 BETRAYAL CRITICAL TURN MAJOR PROBLEM

But life was forfeited and intimacy marred. How? We turned from the source of life and chose to live without God. As a consequence, death and a corrupted nature now stain all our relationships.

Your Story

What troubles you most about life? Why?

God's Story

- ◆ *The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if there is even one with real understanding, one who seeks for God. But no, all have turned away from God.*
- ◆ *How can people like us be saved? We are all infected and impure with sin.*
- ◆ *The wages of sin is death.*

Selections from Psalm 14:2, 3; Isaiah 64:5, 6; Romans 6:23.

What do these selections say is true about you and me?

3 ANTICIPATION

Is there any hope for us? Yes, for though we betrayed God, he did not abandon us. God promised to send a Savior who would rescue us from the consequences of our rebellion.

God's Story

- ◆ *The LORD has sent this message to every land... 'Look, your Savior is coming.'*
- ◆ *In that day he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears... The LORD has spoken!*
- ◆ *Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.*

Selections from Isaiah 62:11; 25:7, 8; 45:22.

Your Story

Have you ever experienced God? If so, how?

4 PURSUIT

As promised, God sent the one who would rescue us. His name was Jesus. The unique Son of God became one of us so that all could see what God was like. He spoke the truth, displayed real love and offered life in all of its fullness.

God's Story

- ◆ *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.*
- ◆ *And she (Mary) will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*
- ◆ *(Jesus said) My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.*

Selections from John 3:16, 17; Matthew 1:21; John 10:10.

What do these selections say is unique about Jesus?

Your Story

Who or what has been the most significant influence in your spiritual pilgrimage? Why?

5 SACRIFICE CRITICAL TURN PERFECT SOLUTION

Then life's greatest mystery was revealed in love's greatest act. Jesus, the author of life, died for us, paying the penalty for all our wrong-doing. How can we be sure? God proved it by raising Jesus from the dead. He is alive today, the rightful ruler over all.

Your Story

What do you consider the greatest thing anyone has ever done for you? Why?

God's Story

- ◆ *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ (Jesus) to die for us while we were still sinners.*
- ◆ *Christ also suffered when he died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners that he might bring us safely home to God.*
- ◆ *And he (God) proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.*

Selections from Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; Acts 17:31.

How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection provide the solution to our sin?

Continued on back...

6 INVITATION

Now God invites us to come to him through trusting Jesus. Forgiveness is a free and undeserved gift, received only through genuine faith in Jesus. It opens the door to life in all of its fullness.

God's Story

- ♦ *But then God our Savior showed us his kindness and love. He saves us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy.*
- ♦ *Everyone who believes in him (Jesus) will have their sins forgiven through his name.*
- ♦ *And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life.*

Selections from Titus 3:4, 5; Acts 10:43; 1 John 5:11, 12.

According to these selections, what is necessary to have eternal life?

Your Story

At this stage in life do you find yourself moving toward God, away from God, or staying the same?

7 REUNION

The climax of the story is yet to come. Jesus will return to judge all with perfect fairness. The unbelieving and disobedient will not enter the life to come. But the forgiven will experience life in all its fullness, enjoying intimacy with God and each other forever.

God's Story

- ♦ *He (Jesus) must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago.*
- ♦ *But he (God) will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and practice evil deeds.*
- ♦ *Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people...He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.*

Selections from Acts 3:21; Romans 2:8; Revelation 21:3, 4.

Your Story

Three questions to consider...

1	G O D ' S S T O R Y
Is it true?	

If you are uncertain, try reading the Bible for yourself. Start with the section called *John*, an account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Ask God to reveal himself to you through this book. See what you think.

2	Y O U R S T O R Y
Do you need Jesus as your Savior and Lord?	

Jesus claimed to be the solution to our fundamental problem—separation from God caused by our sins. Do you believe that you need Jesus? Do you desire the forgiveness and new life that he offers?

3	Y O U R R E S P O N S E
How will you respond to God's offer?	

Will you turn to God in faith, trusting Jesus to forgive your sin and give you new life? If you do, you will enter into a new relationship with God—you will experience Life@Large.

All good stories have turning points.

After exploring Life@Large, perhaps you have discovered the intersection of God's story and your story—life's greatest turning point. If you are ready to receive Christ as your Savior, you can express your faith through prayer.

THE TURNING POINT

"Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. I admit that I have sinned against God and am separated from him. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins in order to bring me back to God. I ask you to be my Savior and Lord. Thank you for giving me eternal life and making me a part of the family of God. Take control of my life and make me the person you created me to be."

Does this prayer express your heart's desire?

If so, you can pray right now. You can know on the basis of God's promise that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life from the very moment you trust in Jesus. He will not deceive you.

Remember...

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life. I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. *1 John 5:11-13*

Life@Large
the story within The Story

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