

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
The Story Isn't Over
Sermon 18.09.10
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Small Group Study for Week of September 19-24

The Big Idea

Sometimes you may find yourself going through trials and hard times. It can seem as if God is ignoring us. It can seem as if God isn't listening. Sometimes we may feel like our prayers hit the ceiling and go no further. Sometimes we can feel as if God has forsaken us.

In moments like these trust that *your story isn't over*. Trust God. He promises He will bring deliverance. He promises that He will help us through. But *God may not answer in your time, but it's always at the right time!*

Abraham & Sarah

Read Romans 4:18-21 & Discuss - What is this passage telling us?

Comment

This passage is one of the best illustrations of the BIG IDEA. God promised Abraham & Sarah a child. However God did not deliver on His promise in their time. Abraham & Sarah had to wait. They waited so long that Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah's womb was 'dead'. God didn't answer Abraham & Sarah in their time, but it was at the right time!

The same is true for us today. Throughout the Bible, God promises that He will deliver us out of pain and trials. But when God doesn't answer in our time (exactly when we want him too) it can lead us to believe that God isn't listening. But our challenge is to attempt to live by trusting in God. See the pain in your life not as a finished story, but rather a story which has just begun.

Trusting God

"What is trusting God?" - Discuss

My Suggestion

Trusting God is attempting to see as God sees, not as we see. Often when we face pain in our lives it can seem as if our story is over. Our human eyes often focus on the negative and struggle to see a silver lining or a light at the end of tunnel. But trusting God is attempting to see as God sees. Trusting God is attempting to see the big picture. Trusting God is seeing the pain in your life as an unfinished story. God will help you through. God will show you that your story isn't over.

The Doing

How do we put all of this into practice?

What are some practical methods of adopting the Big Idea?

- Discuss

My Suggestions:

- i. Trusting God
 - a. It's not easy to trust God. Sometimes it can seem as if God has left us 'high and dry'. But the next time you feel like this, trust that God is still there with you. He will answer and deliver you. It may not be in your time, but it's always at the right time.
- II. Ask those around you to support and pray for you
 - a. If you are feeling pain or going through a hard time, look to your small group/church family for support. CCCC is a place where we are all on a spiritual journey together. So there are people

in your small group/church who are more than willing to support and pray for you. All you need to do is ask, and you will receive support, love, and prayer.

The Challenge

Throughout the Bible, God promises that He will deliver us out of pain and trials. But when God doesn't answer in our time (exactly when we want him too) it can lead us to believe that God isn't listening. But our challenge is to attempt to live by trusting in God. So the next time you find yourself in a pain or going through hard times, try to see the pain in your life not as a finished story, but rather a story which has just begun. Because your story isn't over!