



The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look at next Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week and prepare for the upcoming Sunday. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Is the idea of the Bible being one cohesive story a new concept to you? If so, how had you viewed it before? Does it being one story clarify things for you or make things more confusing?
- How would you summarize the previous two sections of Biblical History- *Communion* and *Separation*?
- What is the significance of Covenant throughout the Bible?
- If someone says Christianity could be summarized by the statement, “Do things God’s way and He’ll accept you”, how would you respond? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

***See the [NEW CITY CATECHISM](#) app for great questions to review with your children to help them understand Christian Theology.

- How can we be sure God will save us even when we aren't good people?
- Why did God make the rainbow? What does it tell us?
- Why does God always love you?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Articles:

[The Message of the Bible in One Sentence](#) (Blogpost by Dane Ortland)
[Storyline of the Bible](#) by Bartholomew and Goheen
[An Overview of Salvation History](#) by Poythress

Books:

[The Drama of Scripture](#) by Bartholomew and Goheen
[From Creation to New Creation](#) by Tim Chester
[The Son of God and the New Creation](#) by Graeme Goldsworthy

SONGS WE SANG:

**Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>*

[Awake My Soul](#) by Derek Webb
[My Rock and My Redeemer](#) by Sojourn Church
[Depth of Mercy](#) by Red Mountain Church
[God with Us](#) by Jesus Culture

READINGS:

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise God! The gates of heaven are open.
God has become man to save us,

C: We now have life in Him

L: The gates of hell God has shattered,
the bars of Adam's prison, broken.

C: From the earth comes singing and dancing

L: Joy to all creatures, honor, feasting, and delight!

C: Dark death is destroyed and life is restored

L: The light in the soul will never go out.
The fire of grace burns in us all.

**C: Spirit, divine, in our bodies and our souls,
fed with the oil of Christ**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Lord, we come before you with our faults and failures of days now past. We have tried your patience and betrayed your trust. Yet you invite us to come in lowliness of heart and receive your forgiveness once again.

C: Lord receive our confession as we receive your forgiveness

L: Forgive us Lord for:

Our failure to be true even to our own accepted standards
Our self deception in the face of temptation
Our choosing of the worse when I know the better,

C: O Lord forgive us.

L: Forgive us for

Our failure to apply to ourselves the standards of conduct we demand of others
Our blindness to the suffering of others and our slowness to be taught by our own
Our complacency towards wrongs that do not touch our own case and our over-sensitiveness to those that do

C: O Lord forgive us.

L: Forgive us for
Our slowness to see the good in our fellows and to see the evil in ourselves
Our hardness of heart towards our neighbor's faults and our readiness to make allowance for our own
Our unwillingness to believe that you have called us to a small work and others to a great one

C: O Lord Forgive us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since Jesus rescued us and healed our broken hearts, we can be friends with him and friends with each other; all believers can live in beautiful harmony! We call this the Passing of the Peace... take a few moments now to turn to the people around us and say – “Peace sister!” “Peace brother!”

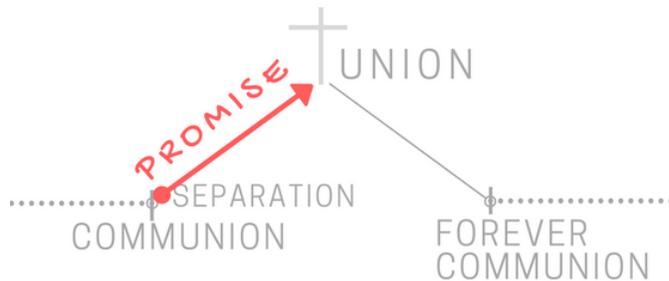
BENEDICTION

L: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
Go in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON NOTES

RESCUED INTO HIM: PROMISE



Questions to consider at this point in the story:

- “Will God allow his people to remain far from him? (AND eventually, forever separated from him?)”
- Will the image of God in man (communion w God and each other) be forever marred and left unrestored?

As you continue reading through the scriptures, God makes promises telling us about what the future will hold, but doesn't tell us everything. He patiently unfolds it, but continues to tell us about the future. Covenant” is the word defines the relationship between God and his people.
COVENANT IS **NOT an agreement** where God keeps up his side of the deal and a people who keep up their side of the deal.

SERMON SUMMARY: PROMISE = The future of humanity rests solely on God's relentless faithfulness

SCENE I - THE SERPENT CRUSHER

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

Notice the change from “offspring” (seemingly plural) to the singular “He”. Probably something we want to keep in mind. Someone we want to be looking out for. Who is THE ONE who will be bruised on the heel, and bruise or (crush) the head of the serpent?

- Eve does give birth to a son, and when she does she says

Genesis 4:1

“I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”

Perhaps she is thinking it is THAT MAN, the serpent crusher. But as we continue reading this hope is quickly dashed as her firstborn son, Cain, murders his younger brother out of jealousy of him.

SCENE II - FLOOD

Lets you think that little bout of sin was only a hiccup....

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And God decides to wipe out all of humanity from the earth, but saves one man (and his family), the seed of the promise remains! **Consider this:** *Even in the midst of “every intention of the thoughts of the heart of man being ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY” God does not relent, his covenantal love is steadfast.*

SERMON SUMMARY: PROMISE = The future of humanity rests solely on God’s relentless faithfulness

Then God makes a covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:8, 11-14), which is a promise of what GOD will do (and not do- flood the earth because of the wickedness of man). He gives a sign of that promise- puts a colorful bow in the sky.

ABOUT THE BOW - Just a note if you think about this bow, as in a ‘**bow and arrow**’, which way is it facing? The arrow would be pointed not towards man, not towards the earth, but rather towards God, He makes a covenant and sets a bow in the sky and the arrow is pointing at himself. *You’d think he’s make a covenant and then point the bow at humanity* and say, I will relent this time, but if you mess this up again let this be a reminder that the arrow is coming to destroy you! *But instead the arrow is pointed at Himself.* Humanity won’t get any better and death by the fiery arrow is still coming. But the arrow of death for sin is pointed the wrong way. Huh! That’s interesting....

SCENE III - TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 11:1,4-9 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. ‘

Here we are again. God comes down to see, finds his people acting autonomously from him and seeking to be separate from Him. He disperses them (confuses their languages)

“Instead of God-given unity and identity, they seek a false, autonomous collectivism and a reputation of their own devising. Here we have a repetition of the eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, *but now performed on a grand social scale*. With this city and tower, the people have sought a false identity, a reputation built on human autonomy” - Bartholomew and Goheen, *The Drama of Scripture*

Look at what comes right after that in the scriptures - **Right after that back to genealogy**. Why? Because the promise continues, we're still looking for THE ONE. **Even at the height of sin, what does God communicate**, I'm still staying true to my promise. You can't thwart it with your sin. Not even when it's this bad. I am relentless!

SERMON SUMMARY: PROMISE = The future of humanity rests solely on God's relentless faithfulness

SCENE IV - ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

AGAIN the PATTERN: humanity sins and shows it's tremendous depravity, and in the midst of that God takes a seed- **calls out one person and makes a promise to them, or a covenant with them**. A covenant defining the relationship with them.

We saw it with Adam, we saw it with Noah, saw it after Babel, now we see it with Abraham.

As we read the story then and come to this point ABRAHAM is seen as the answer to the problems set out in Gen 1-11. So perhaps Abraham or one of his sons is going to be the one! Lets watch out for his son and see if He is the serpent crusher.

There's the problem--- Abraham is old and his wife is barren.

“It's like a tragic joke. God decides to bless all the nations through the descendants of one person. But then He choses an elderly, infertile couple.” -Tim Chester, From Creation to New Creation

So what is the deal? Why does God choose a family that repeatedly experiences infertility?

- God is demonstrating that the promise of salvation will be achieved by His power and His grace. Abraham and Sarah are impotent, quite literally. They cannot achieve God's purposes. When they try to do so, they create a horrible mess.

THE HOPE OF HUMANITY IS IN THE COVENANT (Promise) OF GOD and NOT IN ANYTHING WITHIN THEM.

When you continue reading through the scriptures you see all sorts of immorality and faithlessness. The scriptures aren't condoning that behavior, but neither is the point something like “don't be like him, instead, be like him” rather what we are being shown is that humanity is hopeless to restore themselves to God. They don't have the ability and the more they try to do it the more of a mess they make

SCENE V - A PEOPLE OF GOD

Scene 5 isn't really one scene but the continuation of the promise and maybe some growing clarity of the promise.

The promise is revealed to be more clearly about relationship, about God being restored to his people. The reunion of God and his people.

See: Exodus 6:7; Leviticus 26:12; Jeremiah 24:7; Jeremiah 32:37-38, 40; Ezekiel 37:23; Ezekiel 37:27-28; Zechariah 8:8

Jeremiah 31:33-34

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Do you see the thread of communion? Do you see how God's covenant is about restoring the communion we saw in Gen 2? Whatever God is going to do it's going to be for the purpose of the restoration of the relationship - **God being THEIR God again.** [Getting rid of sin is only in service to the restoration of the relationship.](#) It's necessary, but it's not the end, it's part of the means for God to rescuing His people. God being their God and the people being HIS people.

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

What will define our relationship with God? Will it be our ability to keep up our end of the bargain? Will it be our ability to find it in ourselves to finally be the people we ought to be?

SERMON SUMMARY: PROMISE = The future of humanity rests solely on God's relentless faithfulness

If you recognize yourself to be part of the faithless and weak, congratulations, you're a candidate for his covenantal love. **The good news** is HE IS FAITHFUL. HE IS RELENTLESS IS HIS COMMITMENT TO HIS COVENANT.
HE WILL DO IT!

The question that remains as we look to the next part of the story:

How can He remain just (punishing evil) and at the same time welcome these sinners? How can he be both just and the justifier of sinners?

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

To help you prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday, we encourage you to read the scripture & readings and listen to the songs we'll be singing this Sunday. May God prepare our hearts to hear what He has to say to us.

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

- Job 1:20-22

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

C: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

L: with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water,

C: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: O Lord our God, you have searched us and known us.

You know how quickly our thoughts rise to praise ourselves because we think we are accomplished, put together, or smart. We boast of your gifts as if they were our accomplishments.

You know how slowly our thoughts sink to accuse ourselves, we are quick to boast, but slow to confess.

C: O God, forgive us! Correct and heal us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORD OF ASSURANCE

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law-- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

-from Romans 3:21-24

BENEDICTION

L: To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Timothy 1:17)

Go in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!