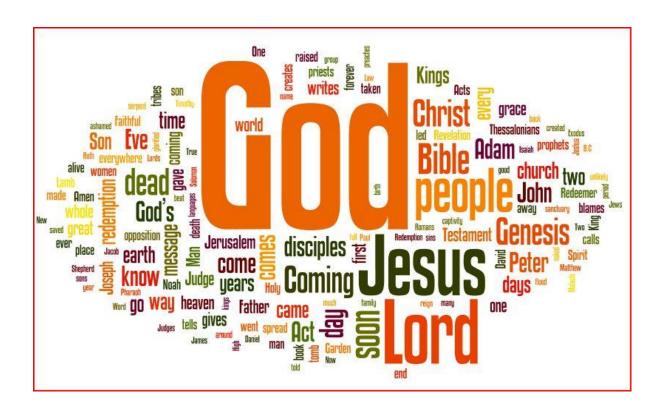


Discipleship Course

### The Big Story of the Bible

Session 1: The story of the whole Bible



What are your big questions about the Bible and how it fits together?

#### **Introduction: One Big Picture**

#### John 5:39-40 (p. 1069)

Jesus is talking to some religious leaders who had misunderstood what the Bible (for them, just the Old Testament) was all about

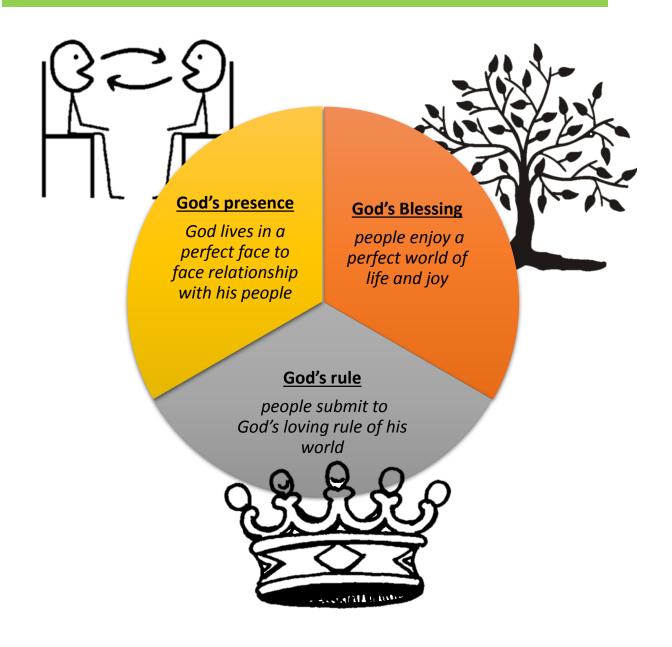
- Why did they study the Bible?
- What does Jesus say is the purpose of the Old Testament Scriptures?
- So why is v40 so sad and ironic?

Two key words that sum up the Bible-

# **SCENE 1: God's creation = LIFE!**

- ➤ Genesis 1:1
- ➤ Genesis 1:31

# Scene 1: God's Design for Life!



# **SCENE 2: Our Rebellion = Death!**

# Scene 2: Our rejection of God's life

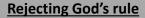


# **Banished from God's presence**

Banished from the Garden- no longer enjoy relationship with God

#### God's curse

We now experience hardship and pain.
Death enters the world.



God's goodness is doubted and his commands broken. We set ourselves up as 'king'.



# **SCENE 3: God promises to restore LIFE!**

a. God's rescue plan is launched through his promise to Abraham (Gen 12, 15)

#### Read Genesis 12:1-7 (p. 13)

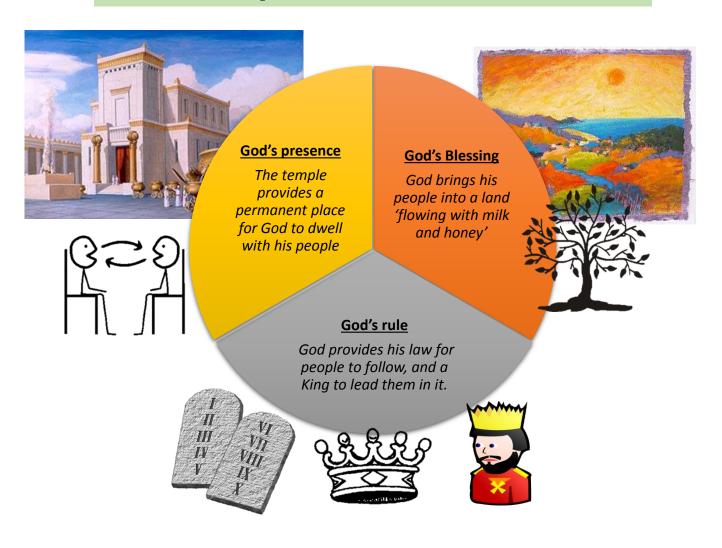
- What promises does God make to Abraham?
- How will the world benefit from these promises?
- How does Abram respond to God?
- Where do we see God's blessings, presence and rule?

- b. God is faithful to his promises
  - → God grows a great people (Genesis 12- Exodus 1)

→ God provides a great land (Exodus- Joshua)

- → God establishes a great Kingdom (Judges- 1 Kings)
- > 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (p. 311)

# 3: God's partial restoration of life



#### c. God's people are unfaithful

#### 2 Kings 17:7-20 (p. 388)

- Read v7-9: What did the people of Israel do wrong?
- Read v13: How did God warn his people?
- Read v16-17: How did Israel take the warning?
- Read v18-20: How did God finally respond?

# 3: God's people still reject God's life



**Banished from God's presence** 

The people are taken into exile. The temple is destroyed.

#### God's curse

The exile is the justly deserved punishment for the people's rejection of God



#### Rejecting God's rule

Israel fail to obey God's law, and instead worship other gods





# SCENE 4: All God's promises fulfilled through Jesus

"No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'yes' in Christ"

2 Corinthians 1:20

#### a. Jesus' life death and resurrection

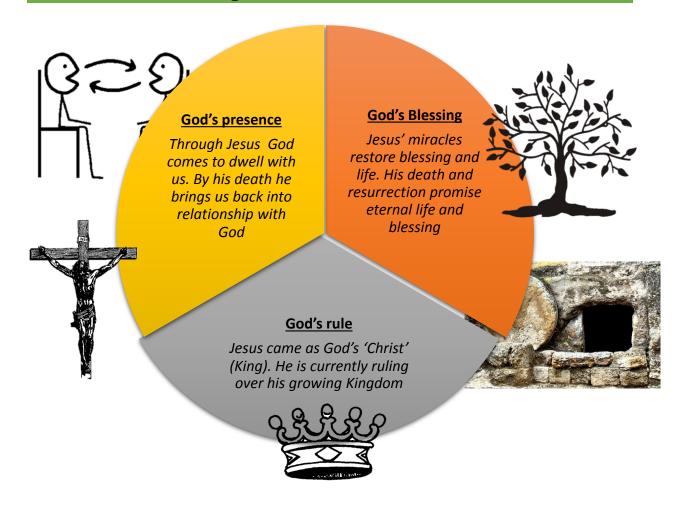
#### Mark 1:9-15 (p. 1002)

- What do we find out about Jesus' identity?
- What does he say he is bringing about in v15?
- How do you think this ties in with God's promise to King David back in the OT?
- > Romans 5:6-8 (p. 1132)

"God so loved the world that **whoever** believes in him shall **not perish** but have **eternal life**"

John 3:16

#### Life is restored through the death and resurrection of Jesus

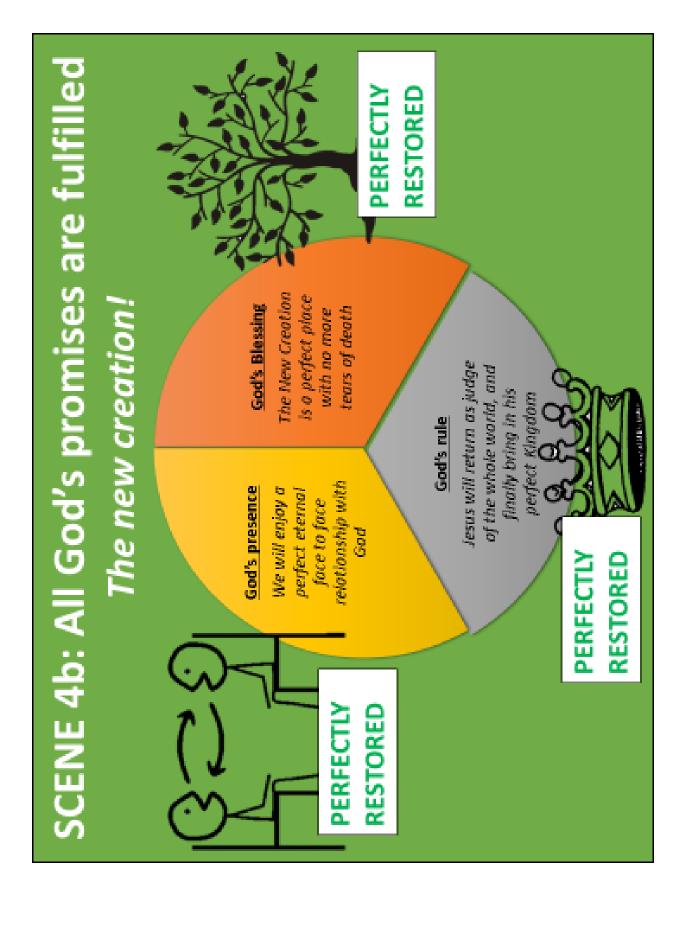


#### b. The spread of Jesus' Kingdom of life across the world

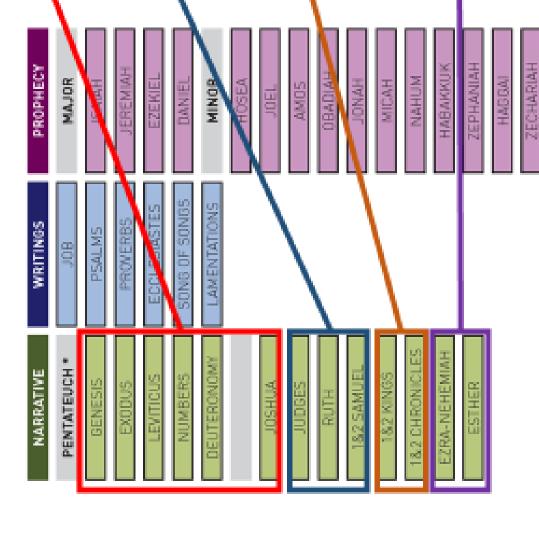
#### Matthew 28:16-20

- What does Jesus say about himself?
- What job does Jesus give his disciples to do?
- What reassuring promise does he give them?

#### c. Jesus' return and the final restoration of life



# THE OLD TESTAMENT | 39 BOOKS



God grows a people God provides a land

God establishes a great Kingdom God's people are unfaithful, the Kingdom collapses, the people are exiled

God's people return to the land, but it's a big disappointment

MALACHI

