

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Why This Study?

How To Use This Study

Introduction

Chapter 1: Cliff's Notes	15
Day 1: Author(s)	
Day 2: Setting	
Day 3: Genre	
Day 4: Plot Summaries	
Day 5: Author's Purpose	
Chapter 2: Once Upon a Time	33
Day 1: The Kingdom	
Day 2: The King	
Day 3: The Love of a Good Father	
Day 4: The Mission of God	
Day 5: Image Bearing	
Chapter 3: But Then an Evil Serpent...	51
Day 1: The Intruder	
Day 2: The Sin	
Day 3: The Shame	
Day 4: The Sentence	
Day 5: The Mercy	
Chapter 4: The Heart of Our King	69
Day 1: The Heart of the King—Love	
Day 2: The Way of the King—Covenant	
Day 3: Tracing the Covenants—Noah	
Day 4: Tracing the Covenants—Abram	
Day 5: Tracing the Covenants—Abraham	
Chapter 5: A Kingdom of Priests	85
Day 1: The Pattern of Redemption	
Day 2: Treasured Possession	
Day 3: Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation	
Day 4: Real Relationship	
Day 5: The Law	

Chapter 6: A Dwelling Place for the King	101
Day 1: I Will Dwell Among Them	
Day 2: Tabernacle	
Day 3: Throne	
Day 4: Temple	
Day 5: Exile and Return	
Chapter 7: The Hero Arrives	119
Day 1: The Second Adam	
Day 2: The Reconciler	
Day 3: The Redeemer	
Day 4: The Perfect Sacrifice	
Day 5: The Conqueror	
Chapter 8: The 50 Most Important Days in the History of the World	135
Day 1: Crucifixion	
Day 2: Resurrection	
Day 3: Ascension	
Day 4: Session	
Day 5: Pentecost	
Chapter 9: Waiting for Our King to Return	153
Day 1: Image Bearing	
Day 2: Be Fruitful and Multiply	
Day 3: Dominion and Righteous Rule	
Day 4: Go and Be a Blessing	
Day 5: Holiness Matters	
Chapter 10: Happily Ever After	171
Day 1: All Things New	
Day 2: The Tree of Life	
Day 3: The Throne of God	
Day 4: The Dwelling of God	
Day 5: Putting It All Together	
Endnotes	191
Bibliography	194

How to Use This Study

This is a 10-week Bible study with each chapter broken down into five days of study (for an optional 20-week study, see below). You should plan on each day taking approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. At the beginning of each chapter is a brief introduction to that week's topic as well as a Scripture reference and prayer. The prayers are intended for individuals to pray at the beginning of each day of study as well as for groups as they meet to discuss that week's lesson.

Each day includes the following:

Questions

Each day's study will include approximately 5-10 questions that are interspersed with commentary. Most of the questions have a Scripture reference that you will need to look up in order to answer the question. This means that you will need to have a Bible in front of you as you read. The questions are the most important part of the study because they are the place you will be interacting with the living Word of God, so don't skip them!

Discussion Questions

In order to help facilitate small group discussion, certain questions in each day's homework, have been bolded. While it is important to answer each question in your homework for your own study, these highlighted questions are recommended for discussion. But these are merely suggestions—feel free to discuss any and as many as you have time for.

Take-Away

At the end of each day there is one bullet point labeled "Take Away." This is meant to help you end that day's study with a reminder of the "Big Idea" for that day.

For Further Study (or optional 20-week study):

At the end of each day, there is a section labeled "For Further Study." This can either be 1) an optional exercise for those who want to dig a little deeper or 2) it can function to extend each "Day" into two day's worth of study. This enables you to turn the study from a 10-week study into a 20-week study. If you choose the 20-week option, I recommend that you still progress through the study in the same sequence, the only difference being that you will take two days to complete Day 1, two days to complete Day 2, and so on,

Scripture Memory

Each chapter has one memory verse that is printed at the bottom of each day of study. I encourage you to challenge yourself to memorize these. They are each a vital part of understanding God's great story and can help us when we explain the story to others! At the end, there will be a page for you to write down the ones you can from memory.

Points to Remember

At the end of each chapter is a bullet-point list to remind you of the main points you studied that week.

As an additional resource for churches, small group Bible studies, or even individuals, we are offering a series of eleven teaching videos. Each teaching segment is approximately 30 minutes long. The first video is an introduction and the other ten follow the chapter outline, offering additional information on that chapter's content.

I reference Disney's *Tangled* throughout the study. It could be fun and helpful for your group to watch this movie together before you begin the study.

Why This Study?

For many of us, the Bible is a somewhat mysterious book. I look back and realize that, as a child, I was fairly superstitious about it. I owned a Bible—a white leather Bible that zipped. My grandmother brought it to me from Israel, which only added to its mystery. I thought it needed to be on a special shelf, by itself, and that I certainly should never put other books on top of it! I rarely took it off that shelf; but when I did, I would ceremoniously open it and hope somehow the "magic" verse would appear before me. I had great reverence for the Bible, but no love of it. I suspected it held deep mysteries and even treasures, but I had no idea what it was about.

God has given us his Word, not to be a mystery, but to reveal mystery. God is mysterious, but he has given us his Word to reveal himself—make himself known—to us. The question is how does he go about this? He does not merely make a list of his attributes in order for us to know about him (i.e. I am holy, eternal, powerful, good, loving, etc...). Instead, he recorded a story, a story that is ultimately about him, to both tell us who he is and then show us what that means. For example, he tells us he is "merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Ex.s 34:6), and then he shows us what that means as we read the story about how he is merciful, gracious, loving, and slow to anger with the rebellious Israelites—and ultimately with us, by sending Jesus! The whole Bible is God's story, and it has been given to us so that we can know him—who he is and what he does.

In the process though, we learn who we are, what we are to be about, and how we are to live. It is a book that is meant to be read, understood, loved, and applied. It is a story that is, first and foremost, about God. But because he is our Creator, and it is "in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28), we learn about ourselves as we learn about him. We learn that he is holy, and we are not; we learn that he is omnipotent, and we are dependent; we learn that he is the redeemer, and we are the ones who need to be redeemed. And we learn that, because we are created in his image and are meant to multiply that image throughout the world, we have meaning, purpose, and significance. As we read this story we are learning not just about God, but about ourselves, our purpose, and even our final destiny.

But when it comes to reading the Bible, it is not always easy to know where to start. If we are not supposed to just open the Bible and hope the perfect verse will appear before our eyes, how are we supposed to open it? My hope is that this study will help us answer that question. This study is intended to be an overview of the whole story the Bible gives us—a story that begins in a garden and ends in glory. It is a 30,000-foot view of the grand sweep of redemption (meaning that we are going to "fly over" the story in such a way that we can look at it in its entirety, from beginning to end). And my hope is that we will not only marvel at the beauty of the story, but that, in future studies, the details will make more sense because of this overview.

As we study from this 30,000-foot perspective, I pray four things will happen. First, that the Bible will become less mysterious and more loved as we learn to read it as the story it is. The individual parts only make sense when they are read in light of the entire story. Second, that your hunger for the word of God will grow as you discover how amazing and brilliant this story is. We will see how it began, how it ends, and how the pieces in between fit together. This study is intended to be both a spark that ignites in us a passion for studying the God's Word, as well as a tool that equips us to do that in a more informed way. Third, I pray that each of you will come to a greater understanding of your own value and significance as you come to a deeper appreciation of how your life is wrapped up in this story. The Author invites us to know this great story and to enter into it because this story is our story, too. And fourth, that the God of the Bible—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—will be exalted, proclaimed, and worshipped because of our time together in his Word.

God has given us his Word, not to be a mystery, but to reveal mystery.