

## INTRO

- What's a favourite movies of yours? What was the basic plot?

Stories are powerful. We are drawn to stories (books, movies, history) because they help us make sense of life. God's story is the true story unfolding in history that defines the trajectory of all our stories: **creation, fall, redemption, restoration.**

## READ

Revelation 22:7,12,17,20

## REFLECT

As we read the above verses in Rev 22, Jesus has begun something and will come soon to finish it. He invites us all to come to him and be part of his purpose for the world. So, how should we respond to God's Story?

## GOD'S STORY TRANSFORMS HOW WE SEE

We've learnt that God has purpose behind all he's made—from the cosmos to you and me. Sadly, we often divide life between: sacred and secular, spiritual & ordinary, our private religious life & our public normal life. And rarely do these 2 worlds meet.

*Qu: in what specific ways do we sometimes fall into the trap of seeing life through a sacred/secular divide? How can this be harmful?*

God's story means we view life holistically (dealing with the whole, not just a part) from God's point of view. In this sense, all of life is spiritual shaping us for good or bad.

## A Holistic Gospel

Furthermore, sometimes we've been taught that the gospel is a 2-act story: Fall & Redemption—your a sinner, Jesus saves you. As wonderful as that is, God's story is so much more than that!

*Qu: how would you describe the story of the bible to someone using the 4 acts?*

*Qu: what do we lose if we don't think of the gospel (good news) from creation to restoration?*

God's plan to fix all that's wrong doesn't just deal with our personal sin. His redemption goes as far as the curse is found: personally, society, cosmically.

*Qu: when you think of the gospel, do you think of its good news extending beyond just personal forgiveness? Why or why not?*

In other words, the gospel isn't just good news of saving you *from* sin and judgement, but also saving you *for* God's purpose: to join him in his restoration project by building his kingdom until he comes again.

## GOD'S STORY TRANSFORMS HOW WE LIVE

As we immerse ourselves in God's story, it should lead to life transformation (Rom 12:2).

The biblical pattern of response to God involves **repentance** which means, in light of the truth, *reconsider* your life (plans, hopes, fears) and then *reorient* them around Jesus as Saviour, Lord and King. "*repent and believe the gospel*" is Jesus' call to us today.

*Qu: way should repentance like this become part of our regular lives?*

## The Future Has Begun

As we live like that, what we do on a day-to-day basis in our 'ordinary' lives matters and contributes towards building God's kingdom. How exactly? Who knows how the spectrum of our human endeavours today will find a place in God's new world tomorrow, but they will. The resurrection of Jesus is the first fruits of that assurance.

## RESPOND &amp; PRAY

- In what way/s has this God's Story series encouraged and or challenged you?
- How will you apply this to your life?