

THE BIG STORY

Faith Journeys

Week of October 18

*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your might.
Keep these words that I am
commanding you today in your heart.*
Deuteronomy 6:5-6



THE BIG STORY

Legend

CARAVAN! (FOR GROUPS)

Unpacking is designed for a discussion of Sunday's message. It gives a chance to interact further with the Sunday message as a group.

Trip Planner Bible study that explores the story that we will be studying in the coming Sunday – explore the stories before Pastor Laurie preaches.

On Mission is a super important section exploring our life together as West Side family. How do we participate, in tangible ways, with God's mission to bless our neighbors and city through his people?

SOLO TRAVELERS

Day Trips gives daily readings through the story cycle that we are on.

Playlist A curated list of songs from the Psalms just for this journey.

FAMILIES

Family Vacation has videos for household adaptations.

Mapping the Wilderness is an exercise to do on your own and then share with a soul friend or person in your family.

Where are we in the BIG story?

The Greatest Generation – in our American story these are the men and women who rose to the challenge of WW2. The Wilderness Generation – in the BIG story these are the men and women whose total failure of faith stopped them short of entering the land promised to Abraham. Big contrast! Our journey this week is a trek through the chaos of the wilderness – a landscape dangerous to faith that exposes the true state of our hearts...

On Mission!

Last week the call on mission was to reflect on whether the BIG story of liberation was helpful to the places of oppression in our own generation. Report back on any further reflections.

This week, the call is “Shema” – to keep listening and obeying together.

Reflect: Read the following passages out loud as a group: Exodus 22:21-24; Leviticus 19:34, 25:35; Deuteronomy 10:18, 14:28-29, 15:7-11, 27:19, 31:12.

Remember that these commands were given to the wilderness generation before they could even imagine being established in a land where they would have the provision, protection and power to act either for or against the widow, the orphan, the foreigner or the slave. What would obedience look like once they were no longer the foreigner or slave themselves?

Act: Identify a person or group of people that could be considered the widow, orphan, foreigner or slave in your corner of Seattle. What would listening and obeying God's commands read above look like in action this week? What action can you take to remember with gratitude God's generosity to you?

Unpacking: Wilderness Journey Numbers 13:17-21, 25-33; 14:1-4

This past Sunday Laurie preached about the rebellion and stubbornness of the wilderness generation. What really stuck with you from the sermon?

Our story and the BIG story

Laurie talked about 4 signs of stubborn rebellion: Looking back – Love of the Familiar – Murmuring (Complaining) and Fear. Which of these 4 wilderness temptations do you easily fall prey to?

Laurie also spoke about the SHEMA – the call to listen. Where do you listen well, and where are you stubbornly blocking out God's call?

BIG Questions

The LORD was as stubbornly committed to the children of Israel as they were to their old ways, providing for and protecting them in the wilderness. This stubborn commitment is called “steadfast faithfulness” or loyalty in the BIG story. Where do you or have you seen God's stubborn commitment to you on your journey?

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Day Trips | With Naomi, Ruth and Boaz

The second generation of the Israelites did enter the land – to mixed results. Even though Joshua’s leadership saw them established in the land, that same stubborn deafness to God’s word and ways led to total chaos. Enter the story of Ruth – four perfect chapters on the history changing power of loyalty.

Reflect this week – whose loyalty to you has been a gift from God on your faith and life journey?

Monday | Deuteronomy 30-34

Tuesday | Joshua 1-4

Wednesday | Joshua 5-7

Thursday | Ruth 1-2

Friday | Ruth 3

Saturday | Ruth 4

Family Vacation

[The Shema series](#) of Bible Project videos are excellent resources for understanding the great command to hear...

Mapping the Wilderness

This is an exercise to do on your own and then share with a soul friend or person in your family.

Moses called on the children of the wilderness generation to remember all that God had done for them – surprisingly speaking about the God’s rescue and provision for the Wilderness Generation as if the story belonged to that of their children as well! For this exercise, take out a piece of paper and draw a map of your own wilderness journeys – you may also include the wilderness experiences of family members in previous generations that are your stories too. What events occurred? How did God meet you? What would you call that place? What does that event call you to remember about the LORD and his faithfulness?

Trip Planner | Wandering in the Wilderness...

This week’s Bible study questions can be used in a group, in your own study of the daily passages, or in a conversation with family or friends. The Bible stories prepare for the sermon theme that Laurie will preach on October 18. So much more is gained by doing a little trip planning beforehand!

Key Passages for worship October 25...

Ruth 1-4

Who is giving this witness (whose stories are these?)

How does this story fit the BIG story of God’s rescue mission (redemption and restoration)? (Hint – notice that the end of Judges states that every person did what was right in their own eyes – while Ruth ends with the genealogy of the king who would establish justice ...)

What is the invitation from God to faith?

What was the response?

Playlist

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 68

God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

Psalm 95

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

Psalm 136

who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;