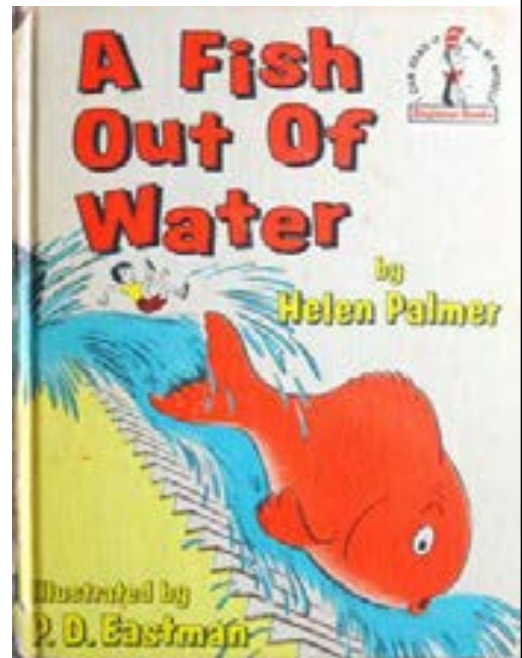


## Human Stories

- **Beginning**
  - Often we see a hint of where the trouble will be (warning)
- **Middle**
  - The crisis: well–deserved trouble
- **End**
  - The crisis is resolved
  - The lesson is learned



1

## A Fish Out of Water, by Helen Palmer

### Beginning

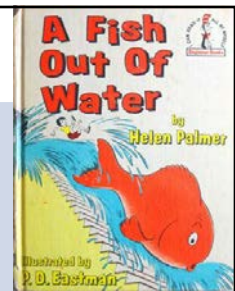
A boy got a pet fish  
 Warning: "Never feed him a lot. Just so much,  
 and no more! Never more than a spot!  
 Or something may happen. You never know what."

### Middle

The boy fed the fish too much  
 The fish grew and grew, until it outgrew the fishbowl,  
 the bathtub, and even the community swimming pool!

### End

Finally the boy called the pet store for help  
 The pet store owner dove into the pool with a bag of tools  
**Mysteriously he made the fish small again**  
 He said: "Now you know never to feed your fish too much!"



2

## The Story of the People of Israel

<b>Beginning</b>	<p>God called the people of Israel to be His people</p> <p><b>Warning: "If you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you... You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit... A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labor produce." Deuteronomy 28:15, 30, 33</b></p>
<b>Middle</b>	<p>They disobeyed</p> <p>God called Assyria and Babylon to conquer Israel and take them into exile and consume their harvests</p>
<b>End</b>	?

3

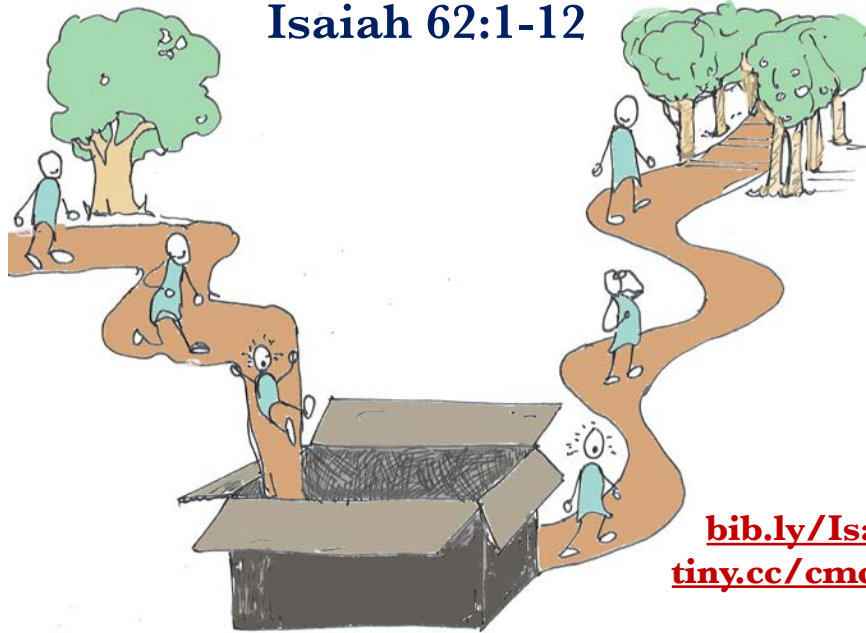
## The Ongoing Story of God's People in Jesus

<b>Beginning</b>	<p>The call: "Follow me!"</p> <p>The warning:</p> <p>"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." <i>Luke 9:23</i></p> <p>"And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me <b>cannot be my disciple.</b>" <i>Luke 14:27</i></p>
<b>Middle</b>	<p>You, and I, and we all fail to follow even for those with the Spirit of God living within us!!</p> <p>The crisis</p>
<b>End</b>	?

4

## The Effectual Love of God

Isaiah 62:1-12



[bib.ly/Isa62.NIV](http://bib.ly/Isa62.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](http://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

5

### *Isaiah 62:1-3*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
 till her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 her salvation like a blazing torch.

The nations will see your vindication,  
 and all kings your glory;

you will be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,  
 a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Zion, Jerusalem = places that represent God's people**  
**vindication = righteousness (status and character)**  
**royal diadem = symbol of honor and power**

6

*Isaiah 62:4-5*

No longer will they call you Deserted,  
or name your land Desolate.  
But you will be called Hephzibah [my delight is in her],  
and your land Beulah [married];  
for the Lord will take delight in you,  
and your land will be married.  
As a young man marries a young woman,  
so will your Builder marry you;  
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.

7

*Isaiah 62:6-7*

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;  
they will never be silent day or night.  
You who call on the Lord,  
give yourselves no rest,  
and give him no rest  
till he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes her the praise of the earth.

8

*Isaiah 62:8-9*

The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
 and by his mighty arm:  
 “Never again will I give your grain  
 as food for your enemies,  
 and never again will foreigners drink the new wine  
 for which you have toiled;  
 but those who harvest it will eat it  
 and praise the Lord,  
 and those who gather the grapes will drink it  
 in the courts of my sanctuary.”

9

*Isaiah 62:10*

Pass through,  
 pass through the gates!  
 Prepare the way for the people.  
 Build up,  
 build up the highway!  
 Remove the stones.  
 Raise a banner for the nations.

10

*Isaiah 62:11-12*

The Lord has made proclamation  
 to the ends of the earth:  
 “Say to Daughter Zion,  
 ‘See, your Savior comes!  
 See, his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense accompanies him.’”  
 They will be called the Holy People,  
 the Redeemed of the Lord;  
 and you will be called Sought After,  
 the City No Longer Deserted.

**proclamation = announcement that brings fulfillment**  
**recompense = perhaps people he has rescued**

11

*Isaiah 62:1-3*

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as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.

13

*Isaiah 62:1-12*

**1-5:** Desolation will be replaced by the delight of God

- “I will not keep silent”: perhaps Jesus’ ministry of intercession for His people
  - We are invited into that ministry
- Vindication/righteousness: status and character
  - Both from God, and both really become ours
- A new name=a pledge by God to make it true
  - The “effectual voice” of God:  
what He declares becomes true by Him saying it

6-9: • “My delight is in You” and “Married”

10-12: • Symbol of blessed life: head, heart, hands

14

*Isaiah 62:6-7*

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they will never be silent day or night.

You who call on the Lord,

give yourselves no rest,

and give him no rest

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and makes her the praise of the earth.

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but those who harvest it will eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather the grapes will drink it

in the courts of my sanctuary.”

16



*Isaiah 62:1-12*

1-5: Desolation will be replaced by the delight of God

**6-9: God and people worked toward His promised blessing**

- Watchmen: prophets, or angels, or God's people
  - Persevering **prayer**
    - “give **him** no rest”: crying out for God's ongoing work
  - Persevering **proclamation**
    - “give **yourselves** no rest”: join in God's ongoing work
- God vows to bring blessing to His people
- God's people pursue what God has vowed to bring
- God's blessings lead to praise
  - Knowing that the blessings we enjoy come

10-12: from God's love doubles the enJOYment

17

*Isaiah 62:10*

Pass through,

pass through the gates!

Prepare the way for **the people.**

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**proclamation = announcement that brings fulfillment**  
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19

*Isaiah 62:1-12*

1-5: Desolation replaced by the delight of God

6-9: God and people worked toward His promised blessing

**10-12: All people are called to become God's delight**

- Emphatic call to enter God's blessing
  - For God's people
  - For the peoples of all nations to join God's people
- The names for “the people” and “the peoples”
  - Holy People
    - “A kingdom of priests and a holy nation” *Exodus 19:6*
  - Redeemed / rescued
  - Sought after (like the Good Shepherd and lost lamb)
  - No longer deserted (delight)
- **A people loved by God's transforming love**

20

*Isaiah 62:1-12*

1-5: Desolation replaced by the delight of God

6-9: God and people worked toward His promised blessing

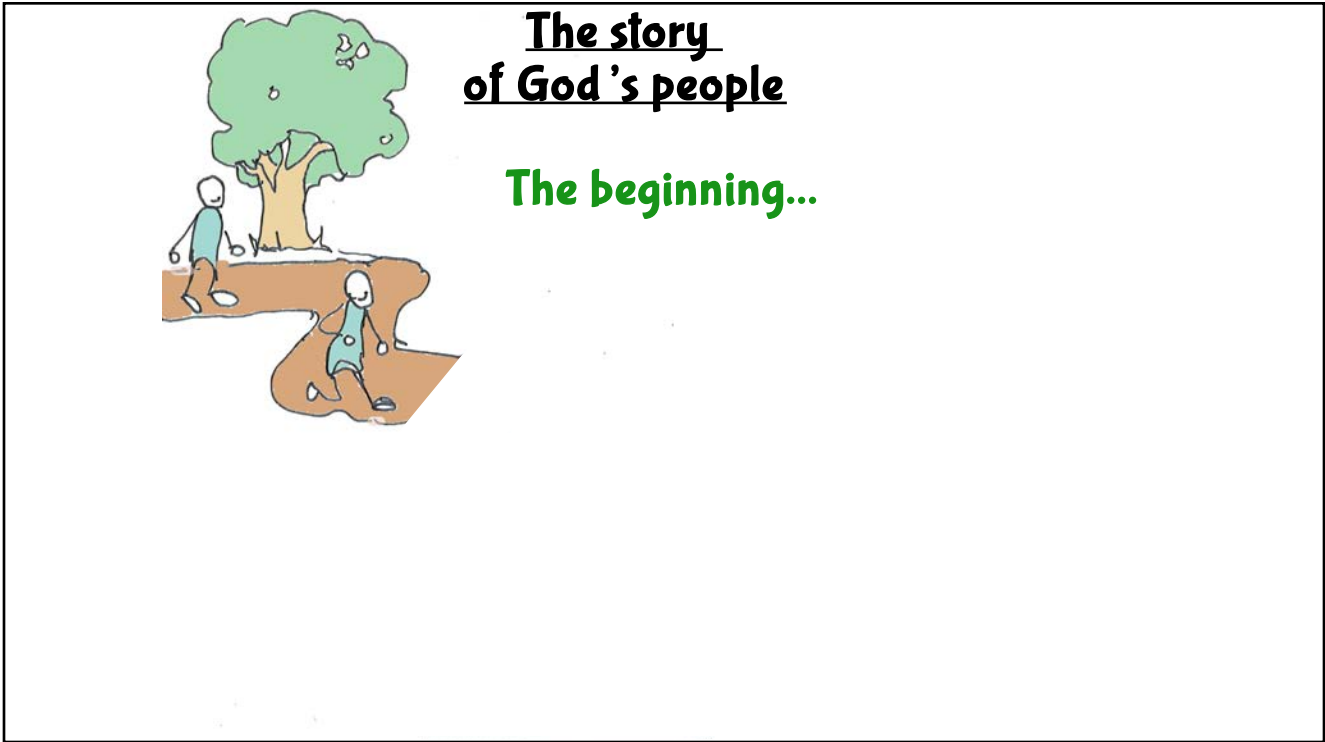
10-12: All people are called to become God's delight

21

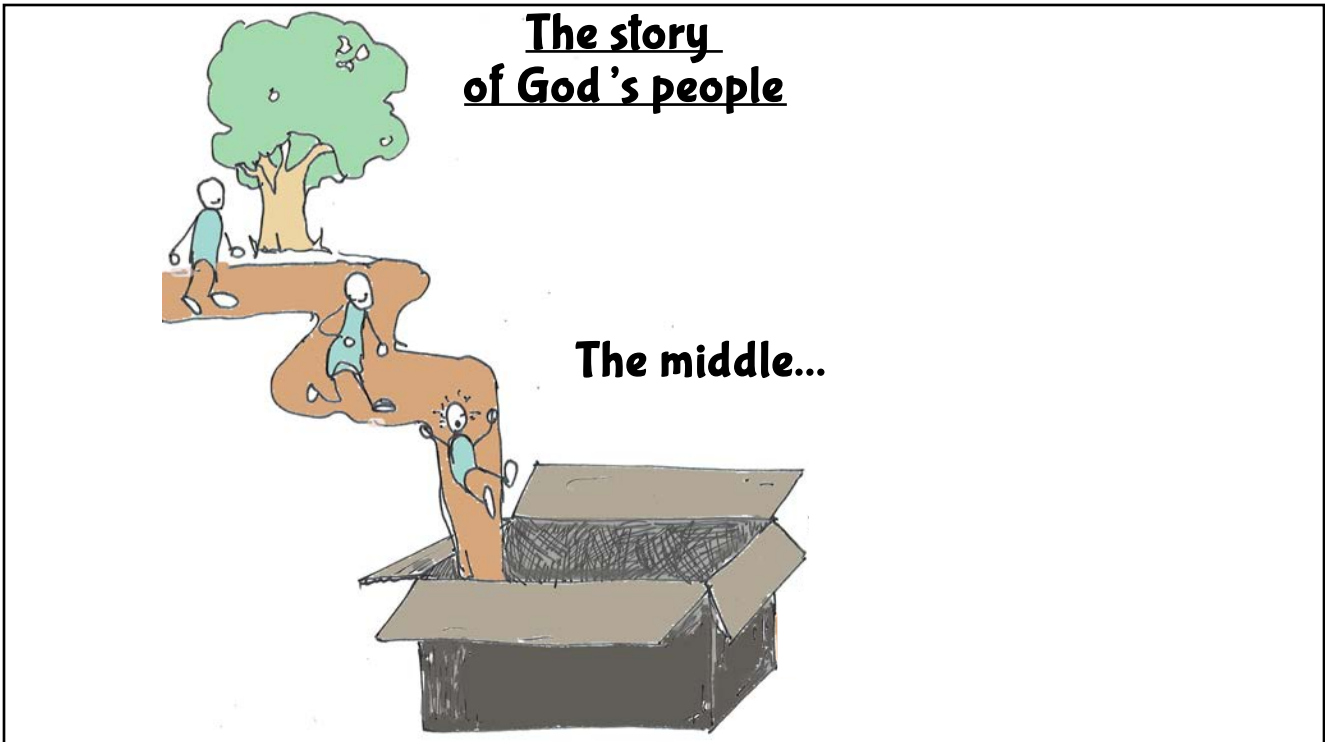
*The Big Idea*

**God's love  
rescues, transforms, and delights in  
the people who are His in Christ**

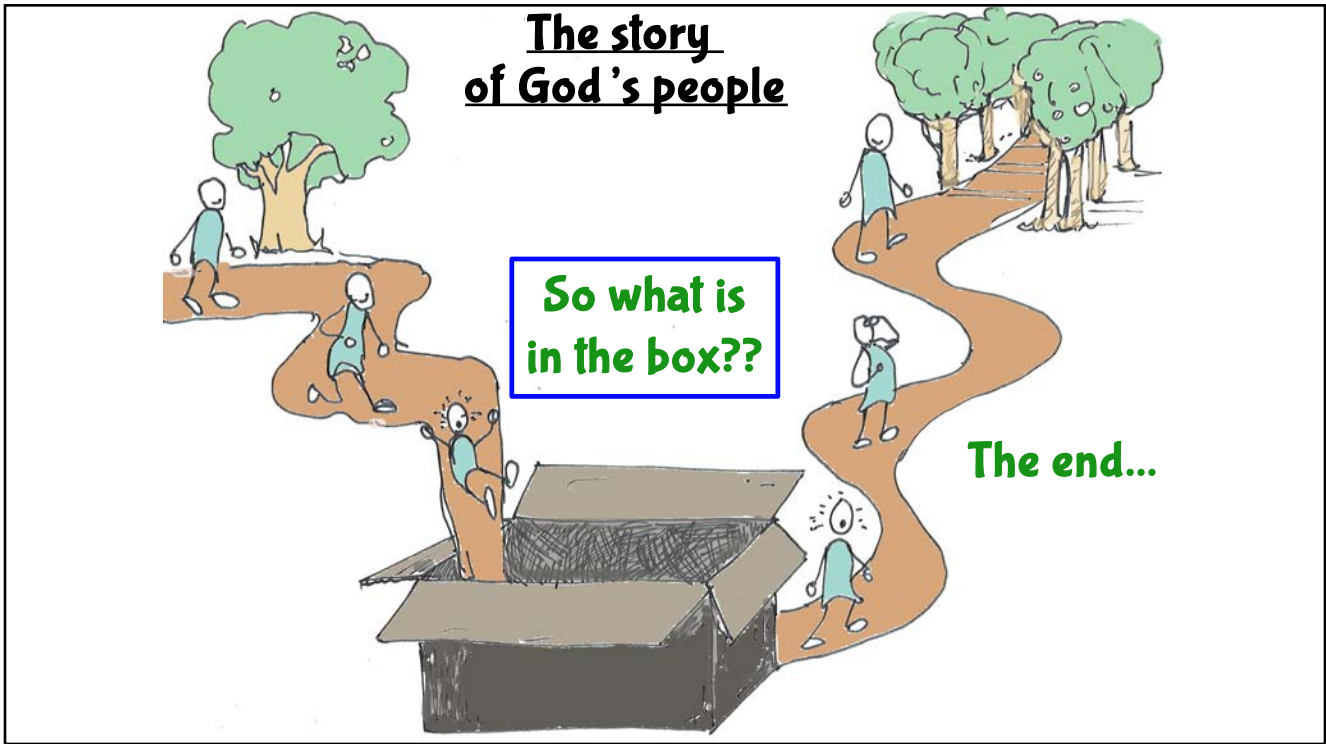
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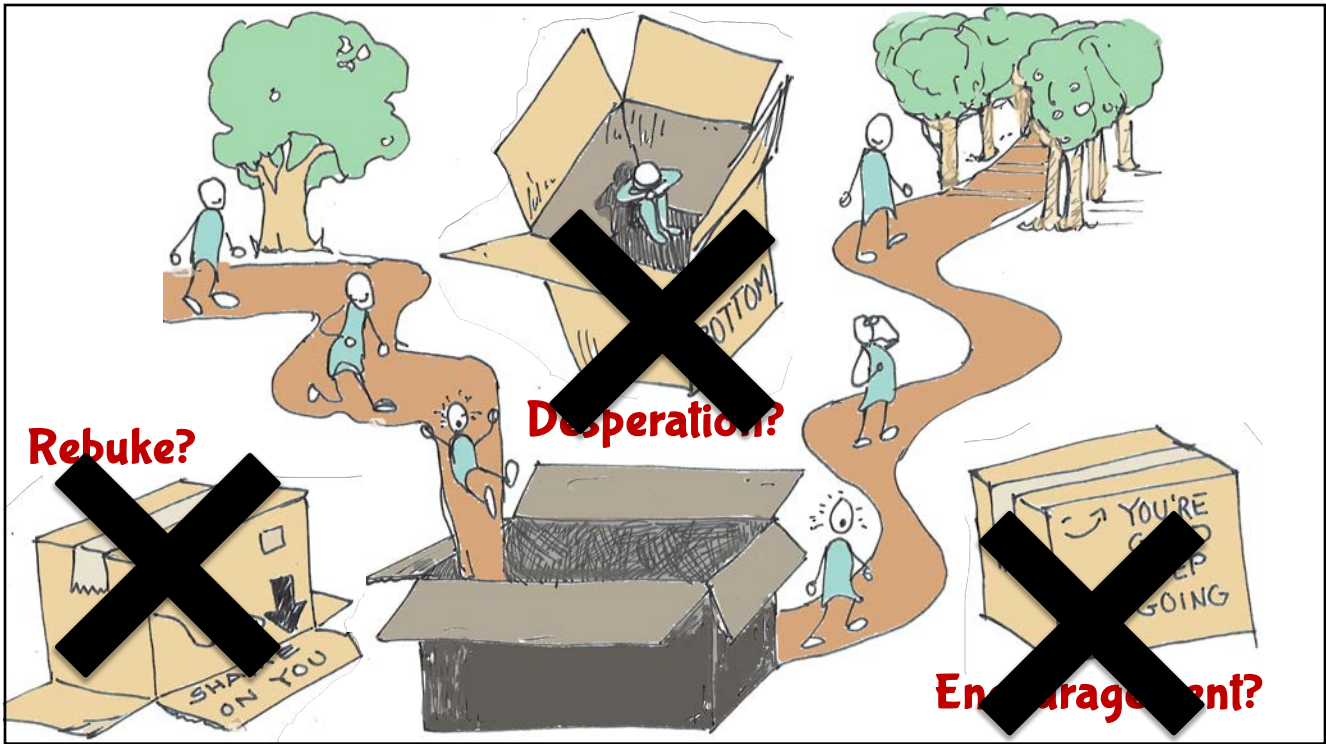
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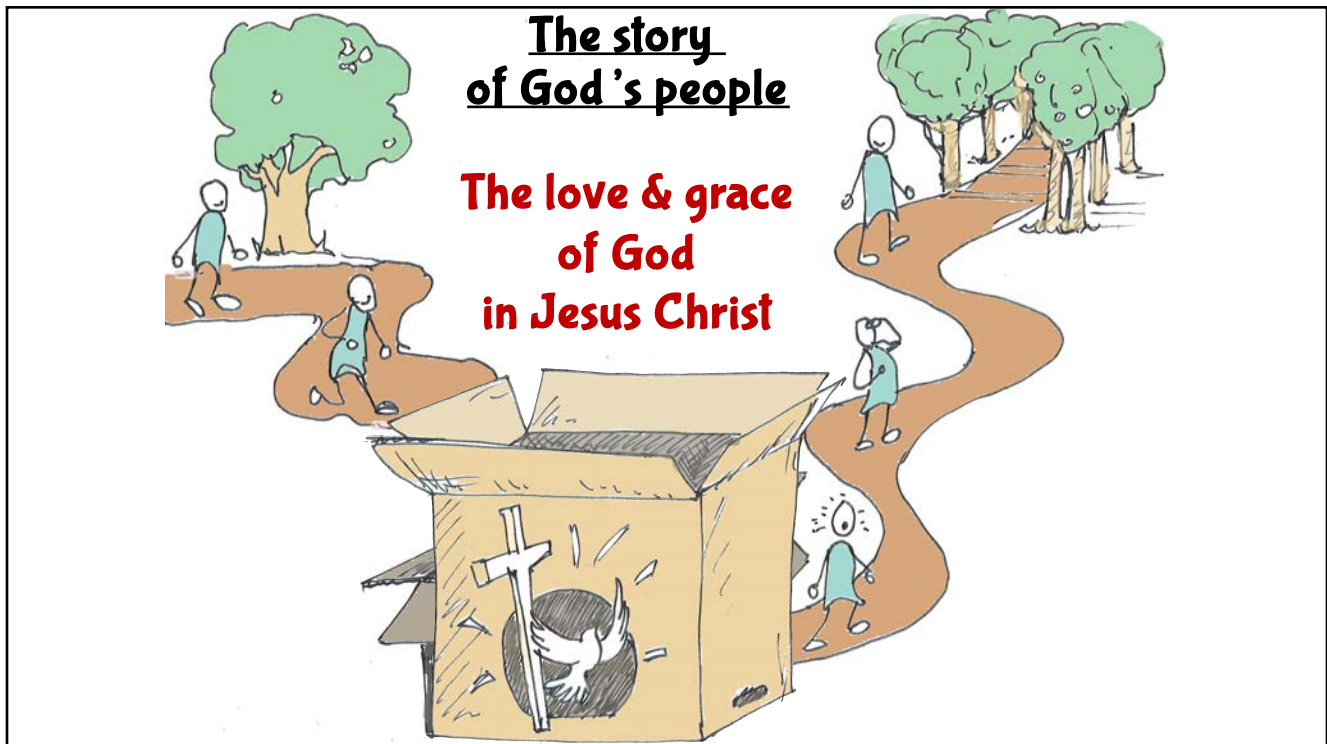
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25



26



27

**God's love**  
**makes the objects of His love**  
**worthy of His love**

*The Big Idea*

**God's love**

**rescues, transforms, and delights in**  
**the people who are His in Christ**

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters **loved by the Lord**, because **God chose you** as firstfruits to be **saved** through the **sanctifying work** of the Spirit and through **belief in the truth**. He called you to this through our gospel, **that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*

28

*Application*

**Know that God delights in each person in Christ**

- We were Deserted and Desolate
- We were judged and worthy of judgment
- We have a Savior: Jesus Christ
  - This is a gift of God, received by faith in God the giver
  - The gift must be received
- Our new names:
  - Redeemed & Sought After
  - “My delight is in you”!
    - Like a bridegroom delights in his bride
    - A shocking description of God’s feelings about broken people!

29

*Application*

**Know that God delights in each person in Christ**  
**Rejoice in such great love!**

- Sometimes we resist this love because “I don’t deserve it”
  - Of course we don’t deserve it!
    - That’s what makes His love so glorious!
  - Resisting His love is responding in **self-centeredness**
- “My beloved is mine and I am his” *Song of Solomon 2:16*
- God says: “My delight is in you”
  - Our reply: “And my delight is in you”
  - When we delight in this love of God,  
it brings joy together with God!

30

*Application*

**Know that God delights in each person in Christ  
Rejoice in such great love!**

**Joyfully and passionately live into God's promised transformation**

- We pray and work because our prayer and our work are guaranteed to be fruitful
  - “Give yourselves no rest” and “Give Him no rest” until it is complete
- The effectual love of God calls us into the joyful journey of sharing His glory → being like Him

31

*Application*

**Know that God delights in each person in Christ  
Rejoice in such great love!**

**Joyfully and passionately live into God's promised transformation**

**In the Church as well**

- The Church, and our church, is not worthy of God's love
  - So we bring harm rather than good to the world
- Yet He delights in the bride of Christ (the Church)
  - Because of the love of Christ
- **“Give yourselves no rest” and “Give Him no rest” until it is complete**

32



### *Application*

**Know that God delights in each person in Christ**

**Rejoice in such great love!**

**Joyfully and passionately live into God's promised transformation**

#### **In the Church as well**

- Joyfully and passionately, we desire to live into God's promised transformation
  - By the power of the Spirit and the love of God
  - **God's love makes the objects of His love worthy of His love**
- That we would be a blessing, not a curse, to all peoples!

33

### **What is your story?**

<b>Beginning</b>	Created and loved by God He calls us to Himself
<b>Middle</b>	We have each chosen to go our own way
<b>End</b>	We have a choice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Live in denial: "I'm doing fine on my own..."</li> <li>→ Try harder: "This time will be different!"</li> <li>→ Live in despair: "I have tried and tried..."</li> <li>→ <b>Accept and grow in the love of God in Christ</b></li> </ul>

34

## What is the Church's story?

<b>Beginning</b>	Jesus has formed the Church He calls the Church to be His presence on earth
<b>Middle</b>	We so often fall so far short of God's glory!
<b>End</b>	We have a choice: → Live in denial: "This is just normal..." → Try harder: "This time will be different!" → Live in despair: "We have tried and tried..." → <b>Accept and grow in the love of God in Christ</b>

35

### *The Big Idea*

**God's love  
rescues, transforms, and delights in  
the people who are His in Christ**

If you have put your faith in Christ alone,  
God has given you a new name:

**"My delight is in you!"**

And we respond together:

**"And our delight is in You!"**

36