

# The Story Unfinished

Finding your place in the story

**Weekend Message Notes**

Next Steps...

Big Idea...

# Behind the story

Family Chapter (optional)

**Watch DVD/Notes**

The story is unfinished. And I am unfinished! The Author is not finished developing my character yet. If the Author alone made the choices in the story, it would be different; but this Author gave us, the characters, free-will to choose where our story goes. We get to decide how our character fits in the story - whether we will hand the pen over to the Author to help us finish or write it on our own.

1. *As you reflect back over the last 5 weeks, which week of the series impacted you the most? Why?*
2. *Share a time when you were "called up" in your life? What did it feel like to be asked to be a part of something bigger than you? How did you respond to the challenge?*

**Refer to Acts 28:11-12, 16-17, 23-30**

3. *In Acts, the apostle Paul has aligned his story with God's story. What was his motivation to do that?*

4. *God has called His Church to the great commission or mission, yet He also has an individual mission for each of us. In the past few weeks we have looked at investing in others' stories, both inside and outside the Church. Where are you currently, or where could you see yourself, joining God's mission?*
5. *God called Paul to "active waiting" and to put his hope in Him. What does it look like to "actively wait" with the Lord? (1 Peter 1:13)*
6. *What would it look like to have a team, or tribe, writing your story with you?*
7. *What will you do next as a response to "Finding your place in God's story?"*

*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 3:12-14*

# Talking to the Author

Lord,

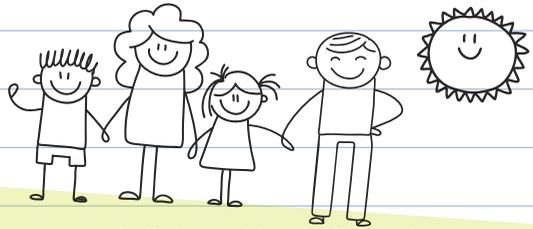
You are the worthy Author of our story. Even though we are unfinished, you love us and our stories. Help us, oh Lord, to align our stories with Yours and to surrender them into Your loving hands as You shape us into Your image. Lord, bring people into our lives and into our stories that can encourage us in You, as we continue writing our next pages. Lord Jesus, be the Author and the Finisher of our faith as we walk with You every day; for Your glory and honor. Amen

***Group prayer requests***

# Unfinished reflections

Where are you out of alignment with God's story?  
Could it be a sin issue? A need to change your priorities?  
Change of focus or a need to ignite your passion?

## Family Chapter



*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33

### **Put God First, And He'll Take Care of The Rest!**

Have everyone (*including adults*) think about the past 24 hours and do the following. Write down how you spent your time. Think of all of the things you did over the past day including sleeping, studying, watching TV, texting, eating, playing video games, going to school, working, talking to friends, etc. Write down the approximate amount of time you spent on each activity. Draw a circle on your papers and make a simple pie chart that roughly shows how much time you spent on each activity. After everyone has sketched out their chart, talk about the following questions... Do your charts show pretty much what you do and how you spend your time and money most days and weeks? If not, what's different? What do these charts show about our priorities? If we say something is important to us but never spend any time, money, or energy on it, how important is it really? Do you have any time spent with God or money given to God on your charts? If not, what does this show about your priorities?

Borrowed from: <http://lbcchelsea.org/kids/resources/familydevotions/Lesson8.pdf>

# Digging deeper into the story

## Summary

What often happens when you become more active in church life, Bible studies, sermons, personal devotional times, small groups, etc. is you begin to get a lot of content in short spurts. If we're not careful, we are constantly learning new things without pausing to reflect on what we've learned and take some steps forward. So for today's study, take a look back at all the sermons, discussions, and your personal work from the previous 4 weeks of this series. Record the seven most important things you learned so far:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Spend some time talking with God about what you learned and thank Him for speaking to you and sharing these things.

Ask Him what He thinks you should focus some serious attention on in the coming months.

## Digging deeper into the story

GO

How do you view yourself? If you had to describe yourself in just a few words, what would you say? Would they be positive or negative? While some of us think way too highly of ourselves, most of us tend to look at our flaws, our mistakes, and our shortcomings. We tend to downplay our gifts and abilities and figure that others have much more to offer than we do. In the Bible, we see Peter who was full of energy and passion; but he's also known for letting Jesus down more than others.

*Read John 21:1-19*

Where did Peter go after he denied Jesus three times? (take a guess from verses 1-10)

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?

When Peter responded in the affirmative, what did Jesus ask him to do?

You likely couldn't find a greater example of someone who was far from the kind of person we think would make a good representative of Jesus than Peter. Yet, if you read the rest of the New Testament you'll note that Peter was used remarkably to change the world! While your story may not be known by many others and your shortcomings may be more clear to you than anyone else, the reality is Jesus is looking for people who choose to love Him, and in response, to go and feed His lambs; in other words, to be a part of the story of God. He's not asking we have it all together; just asking that we love Him and get active in what He's doing. In that process He will grow us, shape us, and use us to impact others for His glory. **Don't miss the chance to be a part of the big story!**

