

“Rooted in God’s Story . . .”

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and then pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read John 1:1-4 and 14

Watch the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/jJShFA89gEE>

Now spend some time reflecting on the how John places the stories of the earthly life of Jesus in the context of God’s big story. Reflect on what it means for you to describe your story as rooted in God’s Story:

Rooted in a story that extends through all of time. God’s story has been unfolding for longer than present events, which will pass. So try to see them, and the span of your own lifetime from the perspective of human history. A history of which God has always been a part.

Rooted in a story that extends through all creation. “without God nothing was made”. Our struggles are not the only struggles in the world – our concerns and fears are not the only concerns and fears – they are only all consuming if we allow them to be all consuming.

Rooted in the story of eternity. The human events of Jesus’ story are placed in the context of eternity. God is at work in dimensions and realms that are way beyond our understanding. Through Jesus, our identity and our future becomes bound up in eternity. Try to see present events from that perspective of eternity.

Rooted in a story that defies human logic. Those described as “seeing God’s glory” have encountered that glory at the cross, in the most harrowing of human circumstances. Even if things don’t make sense at the moment – it doesn’t mean that your story is any less rooted in God’s story. God’s story doesn’t always make sense at the time.

Rooted in a God who is beyond measure. We are invited to see our circumstances in the light of the magnitude of who God is - “He was God and he was with God” None of the words we use to describe God fully do justice to all that God is. So just allow yourself to remember this reality.

Rooted in a God who is present with us. God’s word offers us more than insights and explanations. “The word became flesh” – We can know the reality of Emmanuel. “God with us” right at the heart of our present experiences. Take some time to seek God’s presence in the here and now of your situation,

PRAYER

Eternal God, in Jesus you have joined our stories to yours. Help us to see every situation in its true perspective. Grant us the assurance of knowing that you have been at work since the dawn of time; your purposes extend through all creation; your ways are not defined or contained by human understanding. You are the God of eternity; the God whose being and nature is beyond measure. Yet you are the God who has promised to be with us in the midst of our human circumstances. Grant us a renewed sense of your presence and the peace of knowing that our stories are rooted in yours. AMEN