



Christmas: The Epic Adventure Begins!

Life is a story! Life unfolds like a drama. We **CAN** discover *the* Story! There is a Story that we just can't seem to escape. There is a Story written on the human heart.

"He has planted eternity in the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT).

Christianity, in its true form, tells us there is an Author and that he is good, the essence of all that is good and beautiful and true, for he is the source of all things. It tells us that he has set our hearts' longings within us, for he has made us to live in an Epic Adventure.

What IF? – What IF all the great stories that have ever moved you were telling you something about the true Story into which you were born? You need to discover this Epic Adventure for yourself! This study will help you do just that!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

CHRISTMAS – Eternal Love!

We need to understand the story of Christmas as the beginning of a Larger Story—an Epic Adventure—and how you have a crucial role to play.

Nov 30, 2023

Scripture: John 1:12-14; Ephesians 1:15-19; Acts 1:1-5; John 17:24-26
Music: I HEARD THE BELLS Theatrical Trailer | Sight - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKRc3BykJvg>
 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZtNIZmnEMU>
Video: Braveheart - William Wallace - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2vW-rr9ibE>
Resources - EPIC – The Story God is Telling by John Eldredge

THE LARGER STORY – What's your role? – Ephesians 1:15-19.

1. _____ → Looking at life as a Great Story can change the way you live! It will help answer questions you may have about your life, i.e. questions like: Who am I really? Why am I here? Where will I find life? What does God want of me?
2. _____ → Because our days can seem so random, we question the meaning of life. We lose heart. We find ourselves in the middle of a story that is sometimes wonderful, sometimes awful, often a confusing mixture of both, and we haven't a clue how to make sense of it all.
3. _____ → There is a Story that is written on the human heart. We won't understand our lives, or what this so-called gospel is that Christianity speaks of, until we understand the Story in which we find ourselves. See Acts 1:1-5 – Luke had a Story to tell.
4. _____ → Story does not equal untruth. Story means, "a narrative account of unfolding events; a drama." And epic means, "a dramatic story on a grand scale." God has created a reality for mankind to live in, and that unfolds like a Great Story—an EPIC STORY!

Eternal Love – John 1:1-14.

1. _____ → The story begins ... it's a wonderful phrase ... full of legend and myth, promise and mystery, and a sort of *invitation*. In the ancient past there was a fellowship, a heroic intimacy, something called the Trinity. God is relational. One of the deepest of all human longings is the longing to belong, to be a part of things, to be invited in. We want to be part of the fellowship.
2. _____ → You are invited into a great story of adventure already in motion! The reality of a Larger Story is that Life is not all about you. You are precious, important, and valuable; you have a crucial role to play. But this story is about something bigger than you. Either we believe God is worthy to be the center of the Story and in him we'll find the life we're looking for, or we'll look for life somewhere else. See John 17:24-26.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Tell your story – What's shaped you, made you who you are today?
2. Tell your story – Would you describe yourself as relational? Would others?
3. Tell your story – When you consider that Life is NOT about you, does that disturb, comfort, discourage, anger, or bring clarity to you?



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SCRIPTURE

John 1:12-14 - 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—**13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Ephesians 1:15-19 - 15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,**16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.**17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.**18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,**19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

Acts 1:1-5 - 1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.**5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

John 17:24-26 - 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.**25** "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.**26** I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

"Come To the Table" By Sidewalk Prophets

<p>I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men! And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along The unbroken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men! Till ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day,</p>	<p>A voice, a chime, A chant sublime Of peace on earth, good-will to men! Then from each black, accursed mouth The cannon thundered in the South, And with the sound The carols drowned Of peace on earth, good-will to men! It was as if an earthquake rent The hearth-stones of a continent, And made forlorn The households born</p>	<p>Of peace on earth, good-will to men! And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said; "For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."</p>
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