

Telling *THE STORY*



MOVEMENT 1: The Story of the Garden

In the *Upper Story*, God creates the *Lower Story*. His vision is to come down and **be with us** in a beautiful **garden**. The first two **people reject God's vision** and are escorted from Paradise. Their **decision introduces sin** into the human race and keeps us from **community with God**. At this moment **God gives a promise** and launches a **plan to get us back**. The rest of the Bible is **God's story** of how he **kept that promise** and made it possible for us to **enter a loving relationship with Him**.

Scripture: John 1:1-5



MOVEMENT 2: The Story of Israel

God builds a **brand-new nation called Israel**. Through this nation, He will **reveal His presence, power and plan to get us back**. Every story of Israel will **point to the first coming of Jesus** – the One who will **provide the way back to God**.

Scripture: Pt. 1 - Founded - Romans 4:16, Pt. 2 - United – Deut 6:4-5, Pt. 3 –Divided - Deut 30:2-5,



MOVEMENT 3: The Story of Jesus (Matthew – John)

Jesus left the Upper Story to **come down** into our Lower Story **to be with us** and **to provide the way** for us to **be made right with God**. **Through faith** in Christ's work on the cross, we can now **overturn Adam's choice** and have a **personal relationship with God**.

Scripture: John 3:16-17



MOVEMENT 4: The Story of the Church (Acts – Jude)

Everyone who comes into a **relationship with God through faith in Christ** belongs to the **new community God** is building called "**the Church**." The Church is commissioned to be **the presence of Christ** in the Lower Story – **telling His story** by the way we live and the words we speak. Every story of the Church **points people to the second coming of Christ**, when He will **return to restore God's original vision**.

Scripture: Acts 1:8



MOVEMENT 5: The Story of a New Garden (Revelation)

God will one day **create a new earth and a new garden** and once again come down **to be with us**. **All who placed their faith in Christ** in this life will be **eternal residents** in the life to come.

Scripture: Rev 22:1-2