

Dive! FBCD Women's Ministry

*From Garden to Glory* by Courtney Doctor - Chapter 1 (CliffsNotes)

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#### **FOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS STUDY**

1. That the Bible will become less mysterious and more loved as we learn to read it as the story it is.
2. That our hunger for the Word of God will grow as we discover how amazing and brilliant this story is.
3. That we will come to a greater understanding of our own value and significance as we come to a deeper appreciation of how our lives are wrapped up in this story.
4. That the God of the Bible—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—will be exalted, proclaimed, and worshipped because of our time together in his Word.

"God has recorded this great story of all he has done not simply so that we will know about him, but so that we will know him, believe him, be saved by him, and worship him forever" (37).

**Question:** What does it mean that the Bible is a story?

**Question:** What do you consider to be some of the major stories in the storyline of the Bible?

## FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

### 1. Author(s)

- The Bible has dual authorship because it was inspired by God and written down by men.
  - **Divine Author:** "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16).
  - **Human Authors:** "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).
- "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).
  - **Question:** How does the thought that God, the Author of your story, knows the end before he ever begins affect the way you view your current circumstances, challenges, suffering, and trials?

### 2. Setting

- "God works in real people, in real places, in real times—real settings! . . . We are able to be saved because a real man was really born, really died, and really rose again" (27).
- "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).
  - The historical setting of the Bible matters!

### 3. Genre

- Genre = a category of literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content
- Biblical examples: historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, letters
- Each genre involves different skills of interpretation and application.
- Distinguishing genre means respecting the ways God has chosen to communicate with us.

- Taking the Bible “literally” means understanding it “according to the rules of the genres of literature being used to communicate the message” (Peter Gentry).

#### 4. Plot Summaries

- The ability to write a plot summary reveals how well we understand a story.
- **Question:** What is the Bible about? Write a short summary of your current understanding of the storyline of Scripture.

#### 5. Author’s Purpose

- The Bible was inspired by God and written by particular people in particular times to particular people for particular reasons.
- “The word *author* is the root of *authority*” (36).
- “You cannot sit under the teaching of the word of God with an open and willing heart and remain the same” (Paul Tripp).

“The surface meaning lies open before us and charms beginners.

Yet the depth is amazing, my God, the depth is amazing.

To concentrate on it is to experience awe” (Augustine).

“Read the Bible a lot, carefully, and a lot” (Brian Vickers).