

A. We All Love Stories

- I. Story – the telling of significant _____ of characters over time.
 - a. Character = a bundle of _____ in action.
 - b. Because characters have choices, stories are inherently concerned with right and wrong – with morality.

B. God’s Story... history = HisStory

- I. Creation
 - a. We are God’s _____ Bearers
 - b. Elements of story... _____
 - i. “these are the generations”
 1. Gen2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10,27; 25:12,19; 36:1,9; 37:2
 - ii. “and he died”
 1. Gen5:5,8,11,14,17,20,27, 31
 2. “walked with God and was not, for God took him” – Gen5:24
 - c. Interesting Words...
 - i. garden – Gen2:8,9,10,15,16; 3:1,2,3,8,8,10,23,24
 - ii. tree of life – Gen2:9; 3:22,24
- II. Re-Creation
 - a. _____ heavens and a _____ earth
 - i. 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1
 - b. paradise
 - i. Revelation 2:7
 - c. tree of _____
 - i. Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14,19
- III. The Agent of Re-Creation
 - a. Jesus via a _____ in the middle
- IV. The function of stories...
 - a. *Why do children want to be like _____?*

C. Attacks on God’s Story

- I. History shows us...
 - a. Perfect Creation...
 - b. God’s people _____ Him as _____
 - c. God sends Jesus to _____ His _____
 - d. Perfect Re-Creation
- II. Satan seeks to _____ God’s story via _____ confusion
 - a. The more you tell someone who they _____, the less you have to tell them what to _____.
 - b. In the garden
 - i. made in His image – Gen1:27
 - ii. given authority to rule – 1:28-31
 - iii. Adam ‘helping’ – Gen2:15-20
 - c. In the “promised land”
 - i. 1Sam8, esp. vs5,8
 - d. In the life of Jesus
 - i. testing in wilderness – Mk1:12-13; Mt4:1-11
 - ii. testing as people want to make Him King – Mk6:45; Jn6

- iii. testing in Gethsemane – Mk14:32-42
- e. So too will Satan seek to confuse you about your _____
 - i. Will you...
 - 1. _____ yourself – lust of flesh...
 - 2. _____ yourself – lust of eyes...
 - 3. _____ yourself – pride of life
 - ii. “put off” and “put on”
 - 1. Rom13:12 – cast off the works of darkness...put on the armor of light
 - 2. Gal3:27 – baptized into Christ have put on Christ
 - 3. Eph4:22,24 – to put off your old self... put on the new self
 - 4. Eph6:11 – put on the whole armor of God
 - 5. Col3:8,10 – must put them all away... put on the new self
 - 6. Heb12:1 – lay aside every weight and sin...

D. Submitting to God’s Story

- I. God’s _____, in God’s _____, under God’s _____
 - a. The best cure for a _____ story is another _____.
- II. The “main character” of God’s story...Jesus is Lord and Savior
 - a. Savior = all the stuff we _____ – Rom8:17
 - b. Lord = all the stuff we _____ – Mt6:46
- III. The Christian Life
 - a. Jesus’ Works [words and deeds]
 - i. Jesus’ Identity [the Christ]
 - 1. Jesus’ Accomplishments [cross & empty tomb]
 - ii. Our Identity [“in Christ”]
 - b. Our Works [words and deeds]
- IV. For while the question – “What _____ I do?” – hangs in the air, who we _____ is up for grabs.
 - a. After air, food, and water, the things we need most is that our lives _____

E. Thanks for considering this process of being an elder...

- I. *Will you take the next step in submitting to God’s story?*
- II. We desire the “_____” of an elder...
 - a. 3 main passages – Titus1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-5