**The Plan**

Ephesians 1:7-12

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit…” Revelation 22:1-2

The Great Story of God begins and ends with **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“According to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” Ephesians 1:9-10

* What is the meaning of life?
* Who are you?
* What is your purpose on earth?

“Most middle-class Americans tend to worship their work, work at their play, and to play at their worship. As a result, their meanings and values are distorted. Their relationships disintegrate faster than they can keep them in repair, and their lifestyles resemble a cast of characters in search of a plot.” Gordon Dahl, in *Have we Lost the Plot* by Fran Sciacca

**The Great Story of God:**

* Act 1 – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “it was very good” (Gen. 1:31)
* Act 2 – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin” (Rom. 5:12)
* Act 3 – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:3)
* Act 4 – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “everything must be fulfilled that is written about me” (Luke 24:44)
* Act 5 – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “the river of life… the tree of life” (Rev. 22:1-2)
  + Scene A – **A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “the foundation of the apostles” (Eph. 2:20)
  + Scene B – **C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “so that through the church” (Eph. 3:10)
  + Scene C – **E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** - “we will also reign with him” (2 Tim. 2:12)

“And gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Amos 5:24

**The Plan**

Ephesians 1:7-12

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit…” Revelation 22:1-2

The Great Story of God begins and ends with **Shalom**

“According to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” Ephesians 1:9-10

* What is the meaning of life?
* Who are you?
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**The Great Story of God:**

* Act 1 - **Creation** - “it was very good” (Gen. 1:31)
* Act 2 - **Corruption** - “sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin” (Rom. 5:12)
* Act 3 - **Covenant** - “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:3)
* Act 4 - **Christ** - “everything must be fulfilled that is written about me” (Luke 24:44)
* Act 5 - **Culmination** - “the river of life… the tree of life” (Rev. 22:1-2)
  + Scene A - **Apostles** - “the foundation of the apostles” (Eph. 2:20)
  + Scene B - **Church** - “so that through the church” (Eph. 3:10)
  + Scene C - **Eternity** - “we will also reign with him” (2 Tim. 2:12)

“And gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Amos 5:24