

SOCCER



FALL SOCCER 2019

I AM 3RD





Dear Parents,

We are so glad you will be a part of I AM 3RD this season! We, along with The Centenary Staff are so excited for the many memories that are in store for this season.

This devotional is designed to have an engaging conversation about God with your families and loved ones. This is a guide to strengthen and deepen our understanding of concepts straight from the Bible. This is why each week we reference scripture and apply it to that week. A walk with God is exactly that - a walk. A daily decision to move with Him, and lean closer into Him. We hope you spend time looking for God, walking with Him, and leaning in closer to Him to see what He can reveal to you each week. Let's have a great season!

Feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

JEREMY HOBBS

Recreation Director

jeremyh@lexchurch.com | 859.269.2900 x.261

CHARLIE GULLETT

Recreation Assistant

charlie@lexchurch.com | 859.269.2900 x.234

CHEZ MARKS

Basketball Director

basketball@lexchurch.com | 859.269.2800
x.281

MICHAEL LIPPERT

Soccer Director

soccer@lexchurch.com | 859.269.2800 x.271



Practices Start This Week!



GODS STORY

AUGUST 18-23

Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

BIG THOUGHT: Here's the big thought I want you to consider as we get started. Most people have experienced God's story but few understand it. Even fewer can explain God's story in a way that makes sense of their own story.

In almost all of Paul's letters, he starts his teaching about how to live life by first explaining the story of God's relationship with the world He created.

Here in Eph. 2, we see Paul doing this very thing. In these first ten verses, Paul relates an important part of the story of God. Paul shows how God's story intersects the stories of the Jesus-followers in Ephesus, and he demonstrates how it transforms the meaning of their lives.

First, God's story redeems their lives. Verses 1-9 are about this. In these verses, Paul says that we were dead in our mistakes and sins. But, through Christ, God raises us up to new life and even gives us a seat next to him in heaven. And all of this is 100 percent God's grace; it isn't the reward for any good behavior on our part.

But, in verse 10, Paul introduces a new reality. Not only does the work of Jesus forgive us of our sin, but it also sets us free to become who God has always dreamed us to be.

Let me say it clearly: God has been having a dream about your life from the beginning of time. Paul says that you are God's poema—that's Greek for "workmanship." You are His masterpiece, His poem. Paul goes on to say that as part of this workmanship, God has been dreaming about who you would be and what you would do with your life.

And here is the good news of the gospel—not only does Christ's work on the cross forgive you of sin; it also restores the God-dream of your life. In other words, no matter what you have done, what you have been through, or what has happened in your life, the gospel teaches us that through Jesus the God-dream can now be reclaimed in your life.

What if you could actually know right now what God dreams you to be? And what if you could actually put words to it? And what if more of your life tomorrow could be more of



What type of person do you think God wants you to be?

What good works do you think God wants you to do each day?

Do you believe that God wants to use you to do amazing things in the world for His glory & honor?



GODS STORY PT2

I don't know if you know it or not, but we live in a "story culture." Not all of us like to read, but we all love stories. Let's just take a team survey real quick.

Raise your hand if you would say "yes" to any of these questions:

- In the last three weeks, how many of you have been to a movie?
Rented a movie from Redbox or watched a movie from a streaming service at home? Found yourself watching a movie you found on TV?
- Is there anyone here that has done all 3 in the past three weeks?

See, we love stories. We love watching stories. A few of us even love reading stories. Why are we a "story culture?" Because as we watch the characters, we lose and find ourselves in these stories.

For the next few weeks, though, we want to engage with a couple stories that are the most important stories we could ever lose and find ourselves in: God's story and our own personal story.

And you're not going to just watch these stories; You're going to learn how to explain and communicate them. What set the heroes of the Bible apart? It was more than an experience they had with God. The heroes are set apart because they communicated their stories to others, just as Paul did when he wrote Ephesians. And by understanding God's story and now their own story fit into God's story they began to see how the God's calling on their life and His fingerprints could be traced all the way through.

People find their purpose through story. So what big story is making sense of your life? As Christians, the big story that helps us identify our God-given purpose is found in the Bible. The Bible is God's story, and His story helps us make sense of our stories. So, how are you telling God's story, and what difference does it make to you? How you tell God's story has a lot to do with how you understand and tell your own.

List the 10 highest High Points of the story of the Bible. These are moments of great victory or rejoicing for God and His people.

List the 10 lowest Hard Times of the story of the Bible. These are moments of great failure or grief for God or His people.

Now, circle the top 10 moments from your 2 lists. Finally, think about what these 10 moments in the Bible mean to the world...and you.



Game 1: September 7



THE ARROW

SEPTEMBER 1 - 7

When an arrow is designed the right way is placed into the right hands; that is connected to the right instrument (a bow); and is used properly; it can strike a target with great impact and precision. We want to think about how each of us could live our lives with the impact and precision of an arrow shot from God's bow striking the target of our world with the maximum faith, hope, and love. The different parts of an arrow correlate to the different aspects of Story, Gifting, Passion, Calling, and Goal.

Last week, we looked at the power of story by thinking about God's story as found in the Bible. This week, we want to continue that search of story by thinking about our own story. The power of story is truly discovered when God's story connects with our story.

This combined story of God and ourselves is represented in this picture by the Arrow Shaft. Just as the Arrow Shaft is the basic structural part of the arrow, so God's story and our story combine to form the basic structural part of our lives. Everything we do connects to this combined story.

Big Thought: Most people have experienced their story but few understand their story. Even fewer can explain their story in a way that helps them find their place in God's story.

The last 2 weeks we jumped in to Ephesians 2, but really the entire Bible became our text. For the next several weeks, we want to spend our time in the story of one young man who models the amazing collision of Story, Gifting, Passion, Calling, and Goal that we have been talking about. His name is David, and in chapter 17 of 1 Samuel, which we are going to look at over the next five weeks, we will see clearly how the parts of the arrow came together to radically shift the course of David's life. By seeing how David discovered his special calling, we might find the courage to discover our own.



What things do you know about David in the Bible before he became King?

Do you think God can use you to do big things like He did David?

Do you think if your story combines with God's story (like the arrow shaft) your life will be better?

Game 2: September 14



SEPTEMBER 8-14

THE STORY

1 Samuel 17 will be the focus of the next 5 weeks. Take some time at home to read this amazing story about David. Before you read it, you should know that David had some pretty incredible people in his life whosaw God rescue them, deliver them from terrible situations and protect them. I am sure these friends and family members shared these stories with David. Some of these same themes ran through David's life.

Listen to David's words in **1 Samuel 17:37**. He says, **"The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."** Did you catch that? David sees the future based on his understanding of the past. All the warriors, including David's brothers, would have known God's many stories in the Old Testament. But, only David found the theme for his story in other stories. Not only that, David had already found in his own story this common theme of deliverance and rescue. He had lived through a lion attack and a bear attack. And those experiences, which probably didn't seem like preparation at the time, now became the key to him understanding his future.

Will you be like David or his brothers? To join David, the first step lies in understanding your past, understanding your story—both the good parts and the not-so-good stuff. Because it is by recognizing what God has done in the past that we gain the courage to join Him in the future.



Ask your parents or family members to share stories of their past - good times and bad times - and how they got through them.

Which hero in your life has had the greatest positive impact so far?

What good things have happened in your story so far? Difficult things? Do you think God can use all of those things for good in your life?



YOUR GIFTING

Today we want to take a look at our gifting. Gifting is the Arrow Nock of our lives. Our gifting connects our lives to God's power and propels us with his force. Last week, we began our journey into the life of David. We saw the way that David's understanding of his story impacted the future he saw in front of him. When everyone else saw a threat, David saw an opportunity. But seeing the opportunity is only the first part of winning the battle. Today, we will learn that how we fight is just as important as seeing the Goliaths of our lives as opportunities instead of threats.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-40

In these verses, we see again how David's ability to tell his story in light of God's story helps him persuade King Saul to allow him to fight Goliath. Saul becomes convinced that David's story and God's story are colliding in this strategic moment. Saul offers David his armor, shield and sword but David turns him down. He decided to only take his sling, which had been David's trusty companion in other battles of his life, and some stones in to the battle. David's gifting fulfills God's purpose of winning this battle.

This is an important truth for our lives as well. God is preparing all of us for battle, but someone else's armor will not do. We must discover for ourselves the weapon (gifting) that God has placed in our hands. There is no sense trying to live our stories based on someone else's gifting. Instead, by identifying our own gifting, we connect our skills and abilities to God's supernatural power for our lives.



**What gifts do you think God has given you?
(Compassion, leadership, creativity, risk-taking, good listener, etc.)**

Why do you think God has given you those gifts?

How can you use those gifts in your life to honor God?

Game 4: September 28



YOUR PASSION

SEPTEMBER 22 - 28

This week, we want to take a look at our passion. Passion is the Arrow Fletchings of our lives. It focuses and steadies our life to make sure we live with focus and precision. For the last several weeks, we have been journeying through the life of David and focusing on one of the monumental moments of his life—his showdown with Goliath. We have zeroed in on how David’s understanding of God’s story, his interpretation of his own story, and his understanding of his gifting, prepared him for one of the most epic moments of his life.

Today, we want to go further in this story and talk about David’s passion and think about how our own passion brings precision to our lives.

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-49

Notice where David’s confidence comes from - not in himself. David’s passion comes from what he sees God doing. Remember, David has seen God deliver him from other imposing foes. Goliath will simply be like the lion and the bear. So, David runs toward Goliath, confident in what he will see God do even in the face of the looming possibility of a terrible death.

Passion is more than excitement. Passion is conviction that becomes contagious because it withstands the test of pain. More than mere excitement, passion refers to the lasting motivation of our life that presses us through pain to a greater prize. It is fueled from our past, but it is the thing that keeps us running toward our future. David was passionate about delivering his people from Goliath and bringing God glory...and that kept him focused against the giant!



Name 3 things you’re interested in or excited about.

Name 3 things that get you up in the morning.

Name 3 things that burden you - you see these happening and you want to respond.

Talk to a family member about these passions.

Today - the best you can - use 5 words to describe your main passion.

Game 5: October 5



YOUR CALLING

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5

Today, we want to combine the learning over the last few weeks to try to name our calling. Remember, our calling is the Arrowhead of the arrow, which is the part of the arrow that gives the arrow its purpose. By drawing together our story, our passion, and our gifting, our calling helps us begin to name God's dream for our lives. Here is the Big Thought that we are going to focus on this week: Calling is what gives our story, passion, and gifting gives our story purpose."

As young as you are, you are likely several years from knowing what your special calling is in life. As Christians, we are called to "make disciples," "glorify God," "love others," and so on. You will learn over the next several years that God has a special calling for your life. So instead of being too general or too specific, we might think about our calling this way: our general calling plus our specific story, gifting, and passion informs our special calling from God. Naming our special calling allows us to communicate God's dream that is unique to each one of us. It also helps us live that dream out with greater and greater effectiveness. Your calling is a combination of your story, your passion, your gifting and your purpose all within God's will. **Read 1 Samuel 17:48- 18:5**

David was anointed to be King of Israel in 1 Samuel 16 but he didn't take the position for several years. He knew the special calling on his life and so he lived differently because of it. In those years, David had lots of different jobs and titles - shepherd, musician, military commander, friend, husband, and outlaw. But none of these titles or positions perfectly described what his calling was all about. He knew how God had been faithful in his past and how He would continue to use Him in the coming years. He wasn't about to waste the time waiting to take the throne. He lived "like a king" until he actually became King.



What are some of David's general callings? If you could only use 2 words, how would you describe David's special calling?

Thinking about God's story, your story, your gifting and your passion, what do you think might be your special calling in the coming year?

How can you let that special calling guide you in your decisions?

Game 6: October 12



OCTOBER 6 - 12

YOUR GOAL

This week, we want to take all that we have learned and aim it at the greatest point of impact in our lives. We call this point of impact your goal. It is the Target at which the arrow is being shot. We will discover together the power that having a goal produces in our lives. Here's the big thought I want you to consider today. "Your goal focuses your calling toward one point of impact in order to create enormous breakthrough in your life."

Read 1 Samuel 18:5-16

David "won the war" of becoming King by remaining focused on each battle in front of him on a daily basis. He stayed in the present with his eyes on his special calling. There were things he needed to do each day (small battles) in order to become King (win the war). David knew the Target where his life was aimed. While everyone wants to live with a God-given purpose that results in God-sized success, the truth is those who do BIG things for God are really those who do lots of SMALL things well. Big impact happens one small battle at a time. Goals may seem small but they are meant to help you get to somewhere or something bigger. David took lunch to his brothers. David killed Goliath. David was a friend to Jonathan. David honored Saul's kingship. All smaller goals that helped him achieve his big goal of becoming King.



Talk to your family about your special calling for this year and some goals that you have set. Ask them to help you in the journey.

Based on your special calling for this year of your life, what are some goals you can set to help you live into that calling? If you don't know what your calling might be, I suggest making time everyday to read your bible.

Game 7: October 19



YOU AND GOD

OCTOBER 13 - 19

David's desire was to be the perfect Arrow Shaft that flew with focus and precision to hit the target with maximum impact and success. However, he made mistakes and he flew off course at times. He got selfish and he did not always do what God wanted him to do. While many people thought he was a great king, he also hurt people and caused problems with some of his poor decisions. Even with all of that, he was called "a man after God's own heart." WHAT?! Interesting title to give to someone that made so many mistakes in his life.

However, David felt sorry for the poor choices he made that disobeyed God's Word. He asked forgiveness and turned back fully to God. If we go back to the Ephesians 2 passage that we read in the first week of the season, it was God's decision to have a relationship with us and save us from our sins. He is the one that offers us grace through Jesus. It's up to us to turn from a life that we are living apart from Him and receive His love and grace. Sometimes, like David, we have to be reminded of God's love and grace a lot...that's why He gives us family and good friends to love us and encourage us along the way!

Ephesians 2:8-10: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

BIG THOUGHT: You need to know there is nothing you can do to make God love you more or less. He created you, loves you and has big dreams for your life. Will you join Him on that journey?



Have you given your life to God and joined Him on His journey? If not, please talk to your coach or a family member about doing that.

How can you continue to grow in your relationship with God each day?

Who in your life needs to know that God loves them like crazy and wants to be in relationship with them? Go tell them!

FALL 2019 LINEUP
WEDNESDAYS

STARTING SEPTEMBER 4

SHARE

GET ON BOARD: BOARD GAMES

THE LOUNGE: TALK, PRAY, QUIET SPACE

DATE NIGHT: DROP KIDS OFF

COMMUNITY GROUP: GET CONNECTED

STUDY

PARENTING: GOD LOVES YOU

PERSONAL REVIVAL

YOUNIQUE

WALKING WITH JESUS THROUGH LUKE & SONGS

SERVE

CROCHET WITH A PURPOSE

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHILDREN OR STUDENT LEADER

KITCHEN

ADULT TEACHER/LEADER

KIDS/ STUDENTS



LEXCHURCH.COM/WEDNESDAYS

CENTENARY



JOIN US ON
SUNDAYS

9:30 *Modern*

11 *Traditional*



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