



Making His Story

And Living Happily Ever After

April 19, 2026

Today we're examining **why our story must follow God's script to have a happy ending**. Cuz, let's be honest, the life *He* designed for us to lead is just plain weird – and it can be *hard* to see how *His* plan for our few, precious moments makes the most of our crucial, fleeting opportunity to learn the necessary lessons before time runs out! So, before we make another move, we should ask: **Why life?**



Haven't you ever wondered? I mean, If God's trying to teach the infinite mysteries of an *nuanced, balanced, and eternal* reality – is *this* bizarre, baffling, fragile, filthy, and frustrating human life really the *best* way to do it? Why not some *higher* heavenly school for wayward souls? Why not some *spiritual* owner's manual that just *plainly* lays out all the personal things we need to know to live in *harmony* and *heaven*? **Why life?** Why do we *race* against *death* to squeeze in all the humdrum *human* experiences like doing our *taxes*, mowing our *lawns*, cleaning our *bathrooms*, and brushing our *teeth*? How is *this* the *best* way to learn God's most *critical, profound* and *transcendent* truths? **Why life?** Is this the *best* God could do?

Doesn't it seem underwhelming or at least inefficient? Shouldn't *life* be a *nonstop* thrill ride of *intense emotions* and *obvious* spiritual lessons as we step into our *paradigm-shifting* identity as *children of Omnipotence Itself*?

These *aren't* small questions and they're *always* there – *underneath* all our *boredom, frustration, and confusion*. And the *one* thing we know for *certain* is that the problem will *persist* until we seek an answer! Cuz **hidden meaning stays hidden until we take time to dig it up**. And yet, we *won't* make room to take the *time* without a *reason to stop and dig!* So, God *explicitly* gave us *the promise* that gives our digging a *purpose*: **none of life is pointless cuz all of life is the lesson**. And He means *all of it!*

[Cuz if we truly trust His Word] We know that *all things* work together for good to those who love God [and that's because] – Romans 8:28 NKJ

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to *do good works, which God prepared in advance* for us to do. – Ephesians 2:10 NIV

So, sorry, **every stinking minute carries the capacity to contribute something good in God's plan** – even snaking septic systems! There's no such thing as a *wasted* moment or *unnecessary* experience in every inch of *any* human life. And I was reminded of this when we rejoined Joseph last week. Cuz, Bruce has been walking us through some *deeper* truths buried in Joe's *seemingly* simple story; like the *profound foreshadow* of God's future plan in *Jesus*, why we have to *wait* in what feels like the pointless "white space" between bigger plot points, and how God builds temporary *betrayal, slavery, and suffering* into lasting *relationships, freedom, and joy!* But, last week, we saw another *huge* reason human life is lived as a story: **stories are the best way to compress and catalogue information**.



Cuz, **without writing another word, story logic** allowed us to infer **extra information** about the “shackles” used on Joseph. Remember? By *digging into the details*, we realized that because his captors were spice traders – *not slave traders* – Joe’s slave shackles were likely common camel *hobbles*. And though it might seem like a small detail, that’s a *huge principle*: **Every story can be unpacked.**

Cuz **stories aren’t empty containers; they’re compressed files.** That’s why memory experts use a *mind palace* to connect things they want to remember to a narrative story. Like if your *bed* represents the number 1, your *slippers* are attached to 5, and the *bathroom* is a 7 – you can remember the number 1-5-7 with the part of a story where you woke from *bed* and put on your *slippers* to go to the *bathroom*.

But as cool as that is, **God wired this world and our minds to attach more than numbers to every element of life.** So every little story we experience every day has the power to communicate complex concepts like *morality, history, warnings, advice, identity, reality, and purpose.* That’s why you come home to a *wrecked car* and your first words aren’t, “Give me the data” it’s “What happened?!” aka “Tell me the story!”

Because story is how we *figure things out* and when we want someone to see the *big picture*, we simply *tell the whole story.* That’s why we get this weird life: **Our life story is a spiritual zip file for our human mind.** And being wired that way allows God to communicate massive data in a memorable way – to those willing to dig deeper. The way Jesus did:

With many similar *parables* Jesus spoke the Word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. – Mark 4:33-34 NIV

Jesus did this because creation does this; God’s big truth is already attached to every little detail – from *seeds, soil, fruit, stones, bread, and water* to *doors, fathers, weddings, birth, and death.* Cuz **Life is God’s memory palace, just waiting to be unpacked.** So, think about that next time you simply stop by the store to shop for a fresh avocado that you’ll patiently wait to ripen before you eat, so its invisible nutrition can improve your human health! Maybe there’s some bigger lessons about your relation to creation than the simple taste of avocado toast! Maybe God’s hiding His truth in plain sight – just waiting for you to see what you can find when you look past the surface of your story. Cuz the shallow things are never the whole point – they’re the handles that we use to grab hold of deeper truth. Cuz **truth isn’t built on this world; this world is built on truth.**

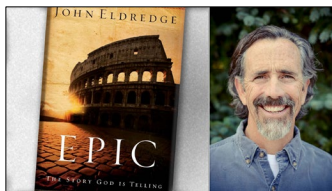
Everything God created down here is a simplified and symbolic shadow of an infinite and incredible reality up there. And here’s why that’s great: whether you catch the intention or miss the meaning, the symbols stay in your story, just waiting for you to unpack God’s bigger picture:

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen [by those willing to dig – cuz they’re], being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. – Romans 1:20 NIV

And that means **life isn't boring – it just looks boring if you don't know how loaded it is.** We're supposed to use everyday life to learn eternal truth – and never live like *life is filler*. And yet, many of us still live like God pads His script with dishes, deadlines, and dental work till the spiritual stuff starts – when the truth is, the spiritual stuff is happening in the dishes and the deadlines and the dental work! Cuz **when God authors a story, there's no boring parts, pointless pieces, or loose ends!** He only writes gripping mind-bending blockbusters and if we don't get it, it's because we just haven't mined for all the meaning! Like watching WALL-E, Avatar, and King Kong but missing the message that makes you think about how humans really should handle nature. Cuz I gotta tell you, WALL-E made me more concerned about environmentalism and AI than any pamphlet or protest!



So, if God really is the Author of your story, don't you think He'd pack every minute of your movie with more meaning than every Oscar-winning thriller? That's what John Eldredge, author of the tiny book Epic thinks – and I'm inclined to agree! Because, as he points out, **every story we love is an echo of the true story we live.**



And that means **God felt some information was so important that He had to make it unavoidably obvious.** So, while movies like WALL-E still require a little digging to learn lessons about human responsibility, your Author wrote your story with some information just sitting on the surface to be “clearly seen” whether we acknowledge it or not!



And here's the joke – we know that we know what God wants us to know – cuz life is how we show what we know! That is, we show what we know about love in the way we love, we show what we know about creating in the things we create, and we show what we know about stories in the stories we tell. And for some reason, all our favorites follow the same formula: **Something was good, something goes wrong, something is fought for, so something good gets restored.** Good, broken, battled, restored – any other plot just feels false! Why?



Cuz **it's our story!** So every fairy tale, war epic, and superhero movie we write, read, and watch is an attempt to connect with the one story we really know! Cuz **God authored our lives to make His core truth easily accessible!** The infinite application may be compressed throughout all creation – but the big picture couldn't be more clear: **Your story is His story and your at the part where we fight to be restored!** And if our lives are part of that pattern, then the best thing we can do is stay true to the story until we arrive at the happy ending! And to do that – **we need a script!**

Cuz your life is not random, shallow, or boring – it's specifically designed to reach and teach you the truth you need to fight your way past this place and into the arms of a Savior ready to set things right! And **Scripture is our script for His Story.**

Turn around and look at the screens. Hello! I want you to notice that all my words are written – which means all I'm doing is reading and following. Is that wrong? Of course not! They're my words, and I took great care to write them to best express what I really mean. And they actually save me from being insincere cuz they keep me from going rogue and saying things without thought - cuz **going off-script is the easiest way for a story to go off the rails.** Well, the same goes for your life!

Now, I know a lot of us hear “script” and think “fake” or “boring” – but that’s because **we think reality means spontaneity and reading and following is lifeless. It isn’t – it’s life-saving.** Like all other guidelines, our script gives us guardrails to keep our life on track! **Obeying our Author doesn’t make us fake; it makes us faithful!** And it takes faithful following of God’s Word to finish the story the way He wrote: *with a happy ending!* That was always His idea – and we just echo it cuz God designed our life so we’d see that we actually want things the way He writes!

So understand this: **Plagiarism is good when the original Author is God.** Get it? If His Story is perfect, then any attempt to change it can only make it worse; cuz you can’t improve perfection, but you can spoil it. That’s what happened in the Garden – perfection was knocked off-track cuz we went off-script! Cuz **when everything is perfect the only thing original is sin** – that’s why it was called *original sin!* It’s all we can add to God’s story – which is why we’re characters in the story and not the Creator! And Jesus showed us how things need to go if we want to restore the good:



[Cuz He told us plainly:] I did not speak on My own, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me to say all that I have spoken. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say. – John 12:49-50 NIV



For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me ... For My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him **[the way Jesus looks to the Father and believed in Him]** shall have eternal life – John 6:38-40 NIV



Listen, **Jesus didn’t freelance His life – so why would you?** He followed the Creator’s story perfectly. He spoke what the Writer gave Him, He did what the Director wanted, and He trusted the Author’s ending. And since He stayed on script all the way to the cross – the sad parts of the story were revealed to be turning points in the battle! Cuz His superficial tragedy turned out to be a supernatural triumph! And in the end, we got to look back and see how every seemingly boring detail (I’m looking at you *Leviticus*) and every plot point that felt pointless (I’m looking at you *Ecclesiastes*) – was hiding the whole story of the big picture the whole time! Cuz **every page of every story of every life is just jam-packed with the truth we need to find the ending we crave!**



So, **why life? Because God speaks in stories.** Because His truth is *too big* to put in a list, so it has to be compressed into a life. Because life is how He surrounds us with all the information we need to make it home and it’s how He keeps every kid within His reach and one step from His help. So, **is that how you see life?** Are you digging through all the daily details in your humdrum story to find the deeper meaning God’s dying for you to unpack? Or are you living like God forgot to put purpose in long stretches of your story? Does work, marriage, parenting, or even church feel like a fruitless field where you wait for something spiritual? Well remember, Joseph’s pit, shackles, desert, and dungeon were all hiding the love, loss, fight, and freedom in God’s supernatural script! And likewise, **your life isn’t filler cuz God doesn’t use empty words!** And every day, your story is getting written about a page a minute – which means you get 1000 pages a day, and 29 million in a lifetime! That’s 10 Eiffel towers high. And if you think pressing Joe’s short story to see the right shackles is neat – just imagine what you’ll find if you use God’s script to mine your massive story for meaning; even the septic system!

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.