

## The Gospel Story

The word "gospel" comes from the Greek word for "good news". The Gospel Story is the big picture of God creating, rescuing, and restoring humanity through the ages, as told to us in the Bible.

### Act I: Creation & Fall

In the beginning, God created everything - the entire universe and everything in it, including us. He made humankind in his image, to reflect His own unique heart for community and gave us the responsibility of caring for the earth.



The doctrine of creation teaches us that God made human beings in his image for the purpose of serving him in love and looking after the things he made.

--Steve Turner, *Imagine*

God gives Adam and Eve a rule and a consequence, and they choose to disobey. Sin enters the picture, and with it, death, pain, and separation. We call this the Doctrine of the Fall, which "tells us that the wrong in the world stems from an original rebellion against God..." (*Imagine*). The world is broken. We are broken. This is the conflict we are born into, and whatever our beliefs, our experiences in life tell us that it is true. We need to be rescued.

"And of course as soon as that glorious creature [man] appeared on the scene, along came confusion and conflict. And story."



Madeline L' Engle, *And It was Good*

### Act II: Redemption

God spends the next four hundred years showing humanity how desperately we need Him, how we cannot possibly get back to Paradise on our own, and that He has a perfect plan unfolding even as we continue to fail and fall.



The doctrine of redemption, the idea that God has initiated a rescue plan, completes the picture.

--Steve Turner, *Imagine*

It culminates in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, who was born to a virgin, lived a perfect life as fully human AND fully God, was led like a lamb to the slaughter, took on the burden of our sin, paying the required price of death, and coming back to life after three days.

### Act III: Restoration

Act three begins with Jesus, restored to life, victorious over death, establishing the Church, commissioning them, and now by extension, us, to go live His kingdom on earth until the day He returns to restore the Paradise we threw away in the beginning. That is the good news of the Gospel Story, Charlie Brown.

*"Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he abolishes all rule and all authority and power."*

*1 Corinthians 15:24*

