

The Bible's Big Picture

Lesson 3 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will be introduced to some significant events in salvation history.
- The participants will understand how salvation history finds its fulfillment in the saving work of Jesus Christ.
- The participants will be able to distinguish between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Content Summary

1. The Bible consists of various types of literature that, when read and studied as a whole, reveal God's saving love and plan for our salvation.
2. The big picture of God's relationship with the human race is called salvation history. It shows how God has worked within the people and events of human history to restore our lost union with God.
3. Salvation history begins with Creation. God's creatures were good and lived in harmony with one another and with God, until the sin of our first parents injured their perfect relationship with God and with each other.
4. The Original Sin of Adam and Eve is passed on to all human beings and makes it more difficult for us to choose good and to choose God.
5. Despite human sin and disobedience, God begins a process of intervention to save us. God makes a covenant with Abraham and his descendants, promising to multiply and bless them so they can lead other nations to God.
6. A key event in salvation history occurs on Mount Sinai, when God extends the covenant he made with Abraham to all the Israelites, promising that they will be his Chosen People. God's covenant with the Israelites is marked by a special Law, summed up by the Ten Commandments.
7. Human disobedience to God's covenant and God's Law keep getting in the way of the fulfillment of God's plan. However, God never abandoned his Chosen People.
8. The Gospels tell how God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to conquer sin and death forever. This is the ultimate event in salvation history and the complete fulfillment of God's saving plan. Through Christ Jesus' sacrifice, God establishes his New Covenant with the human race.
9. Those who are baptized and put their faith in Christ will share in his Resurrection. God's original plan for Creation is now brought full circle as we anticipate the fullness of the Kingdom of God.
10. The Church continues to spread the Good News of God's saving love and his saving plan, through her words and actions.

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