

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus image of two hands reaching towards each other against a sky with pink and white clouds. One hand is at the top right, reaching down, and the other is below it, reaching up. The text is overlaid on this image.

# THE STORY OF GOD & US

SERMON SERIES WORKBOOK

June 7 - July 26, 2020



[StLukesMethodist.org](http://StLukesMethodist.org)









Dear St. Luke's Family,

The heart of the Christian faith is not a set of rules to follow. The heart of the Christian faith is not a set of religious practices. The heart of the Christian faith is not a set of beliefs to check off the list. The heart of the Christian faith is a story. It is a story about God and us. It is the story of a relationship between God and God's beloved children, a relationship that is full of heartbreak and reconciliation, yearning and challenging, always moving purposefully and intentionally through twists and turns toward God's preferred future for all of creation.

I wonder, can you tell the story of God and us? Can you share with others the chapters in the saga in a way that makes sense? This summer, we will tell the story of God, unpacking each episode, but lifting up the whole story as an integrated whole. I hope you won't miss any episodes, and if you do, make sure and make them up! By the end of the summer, you will have a narrative you can share with anyone who wants to know, "so tell me about this God of yours."

In Christ,

Tom Pace  
Senior Pastor

**"THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN  
FAITH IS A STORY. IT IS A STORY  
ABOUT GOD AND US."**



WEEK 1

# CREATION

This week's scripture – Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17

Write out this week's key verse – Genesis 2:7

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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# **GOD CREATED THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT BECAUSE GOD DESIRED A RELATIONSHIP WITH US.**

## **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: CREATE!**

We are co-creators with God. Cook something tasty, set a beautiful table, draw or paint, write a poem or plant a garden. Share it with a neighbor!

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We give ourselves away in generosity and service.

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## **GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

*The Lost World of Genesis One* by John Walton

In this astute mix of cultural critique and biblical studies, John H. Walton presents and defends twenty propositions supporting a literary and theological understanding of Genesis 1.



## WEEK 2

# SIN

This week's scripture – Genesis 3:1-13

Write out this week's key verse – Genesis 3:13

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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WE HAVE FREE WILL AND OUR  
**SIN MOVES US AWAY FROM**  
**GOD** SO DECIDEDLY THAT WE  
**CANNOT OVERCOME** THE  
SEPARATION **ON OUR OWN.**

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: MEDITATE

Using Psalm 51 as a prompt, confess the times you have rebelled or lacked integrity. Sin started in the garden with the apple. What is your "apple" that gets you into trouble in the first place?

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We study the Bible. • We pray and worship.

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### GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Speaking of Sin* by Barbara Brown Taylor

The author brings her fresh perspective to words that often cause us discomfort and have widely fallen into neglect: sin, damnation, repentance, penance, and salvation. In recovering this lost language in our worship and individual lives, she shows how we can take part in the divine work.



## WEEK 3

# COVENANT

This week's scripture – Exodus 6:1-8

Write out this week's key verse – Exodus 6:7

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE STORY OF GOD & US

**GOD REACHES** OUT TO **US** TO  
OVERCOME OUR SEPARATION  
BY CREATING **COVENANTS**—  
AGREEMENTS TO TAKE CARE  
OF US THAT **GOD WILL**  
**UPHOLD** NO MATTER WHAT.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: COLOR & COMMIT

Print and decorate the border of the Wesleyan Covenant art piece found here: [StLukesMethodist.org/thestoryofgodandus](http://StLukesMethodist.org/thestoryofgodandus). Invite a friend to do it, too. There are two signature lines; sign yours and ask a friend who will keep you accountable to your promise to the Lord witness by signing too.

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We make friends.

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## GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*The Covenanted Self* by Walter Brueggemann

Brueggemann challenges the reader to confront the issues of faithfulness, responsibility, and justice in an ever-changing world.



WEEK 4

# INCARNATION

This week's scripture – Philippians 2:5-11

Write out this week's key verse – Philippians 2:7

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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THROUGH THE **INCARNATION**  
OF **JESUS**, WE WERE  
**BROUGHT INTO** THE DEEPEST  
POSSIBLE **INTIMACY** WITH  
GOD.

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: LIST**

Read the Gospel of Luke. List the human qualities of Jesus that you most want to emulate. Is it love? Compassion?

Then, make another list of the concrete ways that you plan to grow in your top 3 qualities.

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We study the Bible.

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**GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

*On the Incarnation* by Athanasius of Alexandria

This short, approachable book written by Bishop Athanasius in the 4th century in order to answer the question, "Why did God have to become human?" Athanasius wrote that, "He became what we are, so that He might make us what He is."



WEEK 5

# ATONEMENT

This week's scripture – Luke 23:32-43, 1 John 2:1-2

Write out this week's key verse – 1 John 2:2

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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JESUS **ENTERED** THE WORLD  
TO **LEAD US BACK** INTO THE  
**HARMONY** FROM WHICH  
WE HAD FALLEN AWAY, TO  
**ATONE** FOR OUR SINS ON  
THE CROSS, **OVERCOMING**  
THE POWERS OF EVIL.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: PHOTOGRAPHY

Prior to Jesus, animals were sacrificed for the sins of the people. The cross changed everything, and the cross is everywhere! Take a photo of every naturally occurring cross you find, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice each time.

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We pray and worship.

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### GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Past Event and Present Salvation* by Paul Fiddes

This book considers the relationship of the crucifixion to the continuing process of God's saving activity. The author considers the relevance of a past act of atonement to such areas of practical experience as forgiveness, liberation, and suffering.



WEEK 6

# RESURRECTION

This week's scripture – 1 Peter 1:3-5, Romans 8:15-21

Write out this week's key verse – 1 Peter 1:3b-4

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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# **VICTORY** OVER SIN AND DEATH WAS ACHIEVED WHEN **JESUS WAS RESURRECTED** AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION.

## **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: WORSHIP**

We are children of the Resurrection every day! Search *Easter Hymns and songs* on Google or YouTube. As you enjoy the music, worship and delight in Christ's victory over death and what that means for you.

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We pray and worship.

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## **GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

*Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N.T. Wright

Anglican bishop N.T. Wright tackles the biblical question of what happens after we die. His answer just might surprise us.



WEEK 7

# HOLY SPIRIT

This week's scripture – Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-8

Write out this week's key verse – Acts 1:8

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE STORY OF GOD & US

**GOD DWELLS** IN EACH CHRISTIAN TO GUIDE, STRENGTHEN, AND COMFORT THROUGH THE **HOLY SPIRIT**. THE SPIRIT ASSEMBLED A **COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS** TO BECOME **THE CHURCH** THAT WORSHIPS AND **FULFILLS GOD'S MISSION**: TO INAUGURATE THE KINGDOM ON EARTH.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: EXPERIMENT

Pray each day this week for the Holy Spirit to guide every step and thought of your day. Pay special attention to fleeting thoughts about a person and reach out and contact them right then and there.

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We pray and worship. • We make friends.

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## GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Fresh Air: The Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life* by Jack Levison  
Provocative and life-changing, *Fresh Air* combines moving personal anecdotes, rich biblical studies, and practical strategies for experiencing the daily presence of the Holy Spirit.



WEEK 8

# COMPLETION

This week’s scripture – Revelation 22:1-5

Write out this week’s key verse – Revelation 22:3

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My Sermon Notes

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My questions: \_\_\_\_\_

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My take away: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it impacts me: \_\_\_\_\_

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ONE DAY GOD WILL **COMPLETE**  
THE NEW CREATION. THERE  
WILL BE NO MORE EVIL OR  
SUFFERING, AND **EVERYTHING**  
IN THE WORLD WILL BE  
**RESTORED** AND SET RIGHT.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY: DRAW

Inspired by Revelation 22, use your imagination and design your vision of the Holy City. This may look like poetry, drawing, or prose. Listen to Tom's favorite hymn, *Marching to Zion* while you create.

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We study the Bible.

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### GO DEEPER...BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Reversed Thunder* by Eugene H. Peterson

Peterson's eloquent meditation on the Revelation of St. John engages the imagination and awakens the intellect to the vitality and relevance of the last words on scripture, Christ, church, worship, evil, prayer, witness, politics, judgement, salvation, and heaven.



# T H E   W H O

God **CREATED** the world and everything in it because God desired a relationship with us. We have free will and our **SIN** moves us away from God so decidedly that we cannot overcome the separation on our own. But God reaches out to us to overcome our separation by creating **COVENANTS**— agreements to take care of us that God will uphold no matter what.

Through the **INCARNATION** of Jesus, we were brought into the deepest possible intimacy with God. Jesus entered the world to lead us back into the harmony from which we had fallen away,



# LE STORY

to **ATONE** for our sins on the cross,  
overcoming the powers of evil.

Victory over sin and death was achieved  
when Jesus was **RESURRECTED** after  
the crucifixion. God dwells in each Christian  
to guide, strengthen, and comfort through  
the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

The Spirit assembled a community of  
believers to become the church that  
worships and fulfills God's mission: to  
inaugurate the Kingdom on Earth. One day  
God will **COMPLETE** the new creation.

There will be no more evil or suffering,  
and everything in the world will be restored  
and set right.



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# **CONTINUE** THE STORY AND **STRENGTHEN** YOUR **SPIRITUAL** MUSCLES

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## **ONLINE SUMMER GROUPS**

Spiritual growth doesn't only happen in corporate worship, but often happens in less formal gatherings like small groups. We want to help you experience the purpose and power of Christ in your life, dig deeper into your faith and grow closer to God.

At St. Luke's, you can find a place to truly belong, to celebrate the joys of life and to weather the storms together. And, we want you to become who God made you to be through personal and spiritual growth.

**Find an Online Group**  
**[StLukesMethodist.org/group-life](https://StLukesMethodist.org/group-life)**



A decorative border on the left and right sides of the page, featuring red stitching on a black background, resembling the laces of a baseball.

# Baseball

AND THE

# Bible

AUGUST SERIES 2020



## ON DECK



AUGUST 2

THE SACRIFICE BUNT

AUGUST 9

STRIKING OUT

AUGUST 16

A LONG SEASON

AUGUST 23

PLAYING THE SHIFT

AUGUST 30

HAVE A HOT DOG





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