

(English Transcript)

The Story of the NT Lesson 5 - Review of Tool Kit and Telling the NT Story

Welcome to our final lesson on the story of the New Testament. In this lesson, I'd like accomplish two objectives.

One, we'll do a brief overview of the Toolkit that is included in Part 2 of your handout,

Second, we will do a brief, 15 minute summary of the story of the New Testament. I will then encourage you to develop your own story, much like you did with the story of the Old Testament.

If you can tell the story of the Old Testament, merge it with the story of the New Testament, then in less than 30 minutes, you can provide someone with an understanding of the message of the entire Bible. This would be a helpful equipping tool as well as a wonderful evangelistic tool to introduce people to God's love for the world and the establishment of his Kingdom through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we begin, please turn to page 40 in your handout and I will walk you through this helpful Toolkit.

This is a simple guide to study a book in context, develop your own outline, develop your own summary of the book that you could then easily begin to teach others. Once you have an understanding of a book of the Bible, you are prepared to develop a sermon series for each book you have studied. You could also develop a multi-week Bible Study for each book as you begin to teach the members of your congregation. They would begin to learn how to study a book of the Bible on their own.

GTN also offers a course called "How to Study the Bible". That course offers a simple Bible study approach and some other study tools that will help anyone study a book of the Bible in context with confidence.

Let's begin on page 40.

This is titled "Part 2" in your handout. The Story of the New Testament can be told in three chapters.

Chapter 1: The GOSPEL of the Kingdom focuses on the four gospels, Matthew Mark, Luke and John.

Chapter 2: The MISSION of the Kingdom focuses on Acts and the 21 Epistles.

Chapter 3: The HOPE of the Kingdom, that is told through the book of Revelation.

Remember that the structure for the New Testament is 4-1-21-1. The 4 Gospels, 1 book of history (Acts), 21 Epistles filled with teaching and doctrine, and then 1 book of prophecy, Revelation.

The structure and content of the Tool kit contains the following:

- There will be a description of that section of the New Testament Story (Gospel, Mission, Hope).
- Next you will be given 1) Background Information 2) Study Points and 3) a simple Outline for the book.
- Throughout the toolkit we have inserted the charts and pictures that were used in the respective lessons.

Let's look at Lesson 5: The Gospels.

There is a brief explanation of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and how they differ from the gospel of John.

The first book overview guide begins on page 41 with Matthew's gospel presentation.

First, there will always be a short description of the book.

Next there will be background information such as the author, the audience, the purpose, the major theme of the book, key ideas, and key verses.

The next section is called Basic Ideas for Study. This will guide you to look for a few key points as you begin to read and study the book. You may add your own personal notes to this section.

The final section is a simple outline for the book. The outline for Matthew begins at the bottom of page 41 continuing to the top of page 42. There are many ways to outline a book of the Bible. The outline included should just provide you with a start. After studying the book on your own, you will be able to develop an outline that will be most meaningful for you. This will be a skill you will develop as part of the How to Study the Bible course.

A simple Outline for Matthew:

- Chapters 1 through 4, the King is Presented
- Chapter 4 through 13 The King's purpose is revealed through his proclamation, his program, his power, and his parables.
- Chapters 13-28: The King's Passion is presented through His pronouncement and presentation through the Triumphal Entry, his reception and rejection by the leaders and the masses, his prophecy regarding the end times, his death and resurrection, and concluding with the promise of his presence through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Tool kit continues at the bottom of page 42 with the Gospel of Mark. Followed by Luke's gospel on page 43. And the Gospel of John on pages 44 and 45.

The next lesson, Lesson 6, will focus on The MISSION of the Kingdom. This section includes study notes for Acts and the 21 New Testament Epistles.

On page 46 you see the summary statement for Acts and the chart with the pictures that summarize the key events throughout the first 30 years of Jesus' new community, called the Church.

In the GOSPEL of the Kingdom, Jesus is Proclaimed. In Acts, Jesus is Preached. The book of Acts was written between 58 and 63 AD. Jesus has established his new community and he has given his new community a global cause, to go and make disciples of all nations.

Just as with Matthew, you will find background information for Acts on page 46, followed by the Basic Ideas for studying through the book of Acts. The Outline for Acts begins at the bottom of page 47 and continues to page 48.

On page 48 you are next introduced to the New Testament Epistles. You are first introduced to the Pauline Epistles. These are the 13 letters written by the Apostle Paul.

Then you are introduced to the 8 General Epistles followed by the chart on page 50 showing the when each of the books of the New Testament was written in relation to the story line of the growing church following the key events in the book of Acts.

Lesson 7 begins on page 51 with Part 1 of the study of the letters that the Apostle Paul wrote. You will find study guides for the 6 books. These are First and Second Thessalonians, Galatians, Romans, and First and Second Corinthians.

These letters were written during Paul's Second and Third missionary journeys.

Lesson 8 begins on page 58 with Part 2 of Paul's Epistles. This section includes study guides for 7 books.

First you will study the four Prison Epistles. You will see the study guides for the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon .

Then you will find the three letters written to pastors that are called the Pastoral Epistles. These include First and Second Timothy and Titus.

Lessons 9 and 10 includes the study guides for the 8 General Epistles. These include letters written by James, Peter, John, and Jude, along with an unknown author.

The study Guides include Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter and Jude.

Lesson 10 includes the 3 letters written by the Apostle John and Revelation. These are called the Johannine Epistles. Including John's gospel presentation, these additional four books round out John's contribution to the New Testament.

We hope that you will find this to be a helpful study tool. The idea is to start with the big picture story of the New Testament, The GOSPEL, MISSION and HOPE of the Kingdom. As you begin to study individual books, you will understanding of how each book supports the overall story.

Step by step, you will begin to develop a broader and deeper understanding of the New Testament. This will increase your confidence as you preach and teach the New Testament also understanding how it is the fulfillment of everything promised in the Old Testament related to the Kingdom of God.

When we teach this course with a group of pastors and leaders, we allocate 4-6 hours toward the study of a book of the New Testament to familiarize people with this Tool Kit. From a list of the shorter books of the New Testament (6 chapters or less), each student selects a book to read, study and teach. We provide time to read through the book and then begin to study the book using the study guide in the Tool Kit.

I have found that if you read through a book, 6-10 times and write down the things you remember from each chapter, you will begin to develop an outline for the book and grasp the major themes.

Using the study guide in the Tool kit, each person will develop a 20-minute overview lesson to summarize the book that they selected. We the form groups of three or four and they begin to teach one another. This activity has been well received by the participants and gives them confidence to continue their study of the book they selected after the course is completed.

As you complete this course on your own, you may do what I just described.

1. Select a book to study.
2. Read through the book a few times, beginning to end.
3. Create your own study notes by writing down what you remember from reading each chapter.
4. Utilize the Study guide in the Tool Kit as well to help guide your study of the book.
5. Develop a 20-minute lesson that summarizes an overview of the book.
6. Teach your lesson to someone else or a group from your church.
7. Repeat this process with another book of the New Testament.

Before you know it, you will have studied three or four books. Over the next 12-18 months you study notes will expand to 10-12 books. This begins your lifelong journey of becoming a student of the Word of God. Along the way, you are called to teach others who will in turn teach others. This is the vision of 2 Timothy 2:2!

Also in the final pages of your handout beginning on page 76, you will find some helpful tools to tell the Story of the New Testament. On Page 76 is the chart that tells the story of the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament during the 400 Silent Years.

The chart on page 77 can be used to summarize the three chapters of the New Testament story with the GOSPEL, MISSION and the HOPE of the Kingdom.

Page 78 is the chart showing the Chronological map of each book of the New Testament. You could summarize the New Testament using the charts on either page 77 or 78.

Page 79 could also be used to tell the story. This chart is the outline we used for the three chapters of the New Testament story.

If you have never read through the entire New Testament, the chart on page 81 provides you with a 90-day plan.

On page 82, you can see the chart that we started at the beginning of the Story of the Old Testament that I refer to as the Story of the Kingdom of God. You might refer back to your Old Testament course notes to review this chart. If this chart is not helpful for you, then I encourage you to create your own tools to tell the Old Testament and New Testament stories.

Page 83 is the answer sheet for the activity we did on Page 23 of your handout to summarize the four gospels.

And page 84 is a bibliography of books used to develop this training.

With an understanding of the contents of your handout, let's now transition to the last portion of this course called The Story of the New Testament.

I want to help you begin to tell the Story of the New Testament in your own words. I will talk through my version of the story of the New Testament in a conversational way. I'll try to do this in about 12-15 minutes. I will begin telling my story using the chart on page 76.

To transition from the Old Testament into the New Testament, we need to build a bridge. And that's what the chart on page 76 is intended to provide.

I would start by just summarizing the five major sections of the story of the Old Testament: Formation to Theocracy, to the Monarchy, then the Exile and the Restoration.

The end of the Exile period into the Restoration begins a transition to the 400 Silent Years. During this period, God was not silent or inactive. They were called the silent years because there were no writing or speaking prophets at that time.

God was working through the course of history to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah at just the right time. You might recall the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had in Daniel chapter 2. This took place during the 70 years that Judah and the people of God were in exile in Babylon waiting for their return to Judah that God promised through the prophet Jeremiah.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a huge statute made of 5 different parts. Daniel explained the dream to the king showing that each piece of the statue was a different kingdom. These kingdoms would be actual kingdoms that would come after Babylon and even surpass its greatness. These kingdoms are listed there in the middle of the chart on page 76.

Babylon was the reigning power when Judah went into exile for seventy years. Daniel and Ezekiel were God's prophets at this time and they wrote to give God's people hope to look forward to the return and restoration of God's kingdom that was promised by God.

Babylon, was succeeded by the Medes and Persian empire. And it was at the end of that period when God moved the heart of King Cyrus to issue a decree stating that the people of Judah could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. God was at work!

The Kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great follows the Medes and Persian empire. It was during this period that God was preparing the world culturally and spiritually for the coming of the Messiah. Around 200 BC, the Old Testament Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek. This is called the Septuagint because 70 theologians were commissioned to translate the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek. During this period, Greek became the common language of the people and it would remain the common language leading into the New Testament.

Following the Greek empire, there was a period when the people of Judah won their independence. The Maccabean revolt and the Hasmonean period tell this story. The Israelites revolted against the Assyrian rulers at the time. John Hyrcanus was one the key leaders. He was the primary political/religious leader which caused the people to begin to look for the promised Messiah, who they thought would also be a political and religious leader sent from God to rescue God's people. The Hasmonean dynasty produced future leaders such as the Herods and King Arrippa. John Hyrcanus made an alliance with the newly forming Roman Empire. This led to internal civil war and eventually the conquest of Judea by Rome in 63 BC under the Roman General Pompey. This is where the New Testament story begins.

John the Baptist would be the one who would break the silence of the 400 Silent Years. He would be the first prophet, promised by the prophet Malachi, to preparing a way for the Messiah.

The final portion of the chart on page 76 summarizes just a few ways that God preparing the world for the coming of the Messiah during these 400n Silent Yeas.

It was a right time theologically. There were many different kinds of religions. There were animistic religions, there was worship of the Roman Emperor, there was the worship of many pagan gods and goddesses. People were confused and they were in despair. God's were looking forward the promised Messiah. Also, the Hebrew Old Testament had been translated into the Greek language. More people could understand what God had promised in the Old Testament related to his kingdom and the promised Messiah ton come and reign on King David's throne.

It was the right time culturally. Greek became the common language. Four million Jews were dispersed all around the Mediterranean Sea. The culture was prepared to receive the Good News of the Gospel when it would be released in the book of Acts with the birth of the church. There were also many centers where Jews worshipped of God called Synagogues. These people who knew about the One True God, were looking for a Messiah. They were looking for liberation from the oppression of Rome. They would be the first ones to ultimately have an opportunity to see, hear and respond to the message of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And it was the right time politically. This was a time of the Pax Romana, there was Roman peace. Rome had established an elaborate road system. The continents of Asia, Africa and Europe were united. The world was ready for Jesus to come. Following Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and ascension and the birth of the church, there would be an infrastructure in place to easily communicate this Good News throughout the Roman Empire.

Galatians 4:4 tells us that at just the right time, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. God was at work during these 400 Silent Years leading up to just the right time for Jesus to come.

I will continue the Story of the New Testament using the chart on page 77.

There are three chapters in this story, the GOSPEL of the kingdom, the MISSION of the kingdom and the HOPE of the kingdom.

The GOSPEL of the kingdom is told through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In the four gospels, Jesus is revealed. Each of the gospel writer was focused on a primary audience and they emphasized similar and different themes about Jesus, the promised Messiah.

They were proclaiming that the promised King had come and that the King would be victorious. He would conquer sin through the cross and the resurrection.

Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience, emphasizing that Jesus is the promised King descended from Abraham and David.

Mark was writing primarily to a Roman audience saying that Jesus is the Son of God, and the suffering servant. He wrote in chapter 10:45 that the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

Luke wrote about Jesus as the Son of Man, our substitute, the perfect man, the God-man. He came as the one who would be our Savior, our substitute. He wrote primarily to a Greek audience. In Luke 19:10, he wrote that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke followed a very similar format with many of the same miracles, parables, and order of events from the birth of Jesus, to his public ministry, and ending with Jesus' death and resurrection.

John's gospel followed a different format. He doesn't tell the story from Jesus' birth to ministry and so forth. He starts from eternity past. He goes all the way back before the beginning of time, eternity past. In John 1:1 he writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

John's objective is to show that Jesus is God. He is the Creator. Jesus is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity. John was writing to the world saying that Jesus is God who took on flesh to become our Savior. John wrote so that the world might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they may have life in his Name.

All four gospel writers dedicate 30%-50% of the story to the final week of Jesus' life. They tell of the passion week leading up to Jesus' death on the cross for the sin of the world. On the third day Jesus rises from the dead just as he promised, proving that the Father was satisfied with Jesus' final sacrifice for sin. This proved that Jesus was who he said he was. He is the Messiah, the Savior, God with us, Emmanuel.

The story continues with the MISSION of the Kingdom. This part of the story begins with Luke telling the story of the birth of Jesus' new community called the church in the book of Acts. For 40 days following the resurrection, Jesus is teaching and giving his disciples convincing proofs that he is alive. He continues to preach and teach his followers about the kingdom of God and he tells them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. When he comes, they will receive power to be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. With the indwelling Holy Spirit, the church will fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20, to go and make disciples of all nations.

The book of Acts is the story of the first 30-60 years of the church from Pentecost all the way to about 90AD. The New Testament ends with the Apostle John, writing the book of Revelation.

In this picture on page 77, the book of Acts was written between 58-63 AD. Acts is a series of more than 10 sermons in which Jesus is preached! The chart in the middle of the page summarized some of the key historical events of the early church. The church was birthed at Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. You can see Paul's three missionary journeys where the gospel moved from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria and then to the ends of the earth, just as Jesus commanded. Paul was persecuted throughout his life and arrested and imprisoned on two different occasions. Paul is killed for his faith in Jesus yet the church continues to grow. Jesus said he would build his church and nothing would stop it.

Working together with the book of Acts are the 21 epistles. These are the letters written by Paul, Peter, James, John and others to teach the church how to live in this new community that Jesus established, called the Church. Paul wrote 13 of these letters. They are filled with teaching and doctrine.

Paul wrote letters to churches. He wrote letters to pastors. There were letters that were written to encourage the church when he was in prison and we know those to be the prison epistles of Ephesians and Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

The pastoral epistles that he wrote were to Timothy, a young pastor in the city of Ephesus, and also to Titus, who was commanded to establish churches on the island of Crete.

In addition, there were eight general epistles written between 44-90 AD. These are Hebrews, James, First and Second Peter, and Jude along with the three letters written by John. These letters were written to encourage the church during times of persecution to persevere, and to be on guard for false teachers.

As you read through the book of Acts, you will discover places such as Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Collosae, and Corinth. These are real places where the apostle Paul and others traveled and share the Good News that eternal life and forgiveness of sin can be found through faith in the death, resurrection, an ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. The letters were written to these churches to instruct them on the doctrine of the church and how to live out their faith in Jesus. How you live will be the evidence of who you are in Christ.

The Apostle John wrote three additional letters, First, Second, and Third John. They were written around 80-90 AD as an older man, and the final surviving apostle. This leads into the final chapter of the story of the New Testament, the HOPE of the kingdom.

The only book of prophecy in the New Testament, the book of Revelation, tells this part of the Story. John wrote Revelation. He was a man in his 80s. The Romans Emperor Domitian tried to kill him for his faith in Jesus. He survived being dipped in boiling water and they put him in exile on the island of Patmos. In Revelation, John records a vision he received from the glorified Jesus. Jesus tells John to write a message to seven real churches in what we would call present-day Turkey.

This was meant to be a message of Hope. Jesus told John to write I want you what you've seen, what is now, and what will take place in the future. The church at that point was facing extreme persecution from Rome. They were probably wondering when is Jesus going to return. John was writing to give them hope, to persevere, to keep looking and longing and living for the appearing of Jesus. And throughout the book of Revelation, the main thing is to know that in the end Jesus wins.

He is coming back. He is going to set everything right. He will cast Satan and the Antichrist and the false prophet into the Lake of Fire.

All those who have died without putting their faith in Christ, will be judged. Their names will be found not written in the Book of Life. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire, separated from God for eternity.

Jesus will return to set up the kingdom promised to King David. All those from the Old Testament who were believing or trusting in the Messiah to come, the Savior to come, and all those living during the time of the church age who have put their trust in Jesus will have been raptured, will have been glorified, and will be prepared to live for eternity in the new heaven and new earth that is talked about in Revelation 21 and 22. So Jesus is coming back again.

Jesus said, "I am coming soon".

There are different theological views on the timing of the events in the end times yet all true believers agree on few truths related to the End Times.

1. Jesus is coming back again. He is coming back physically to rule and reign on David's throne.
2. There will be a judgment of the wicked, those who have not trusted in Jesus.

3. And there will be an eternal home for the righteous in the new heaven and new earth.

At the highest level, we can all agree on these truths across denominations.

The main message is that in the end, Jesus wins! Jesus is victorious!

Are you ready for his return?

Have you put your trust in Jesus?

Are you living for him?

Are you sharing the HOPE of the kingdom with others?

The New Testament is the fulfillment of everything that was promised in the Old Testament. Jesus is the promised King. Jesus is the King of Kings.

Jesus will reign on David's throne. Jesus is a fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham in the Abrahamic covenant, that all the nations of the earth will be blessed through those who have the faith of Abraham.

Everyone is invited to enter the Kingdom of God through faith Christ.
It's a wonderful story.

From the Old Testament through the 400 Silent Years into the New Testament, the GOSPEL of the kingdom, the MISSION of the kingdom, the HOPE of the kingdom, the theme of the entire Bible is Jesus.

There is a red thread of Jesus woven throughout every book of the Bible.

We celebrate, we exalt the name of Jesus because Jesus was victorious at the cross through the resurrection. In Philippians 2, Paul writes that God gave Jesus the name that's above every name. At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

May you be blessed, encouraged and filled with hope through this course.

May you begin to read and study each book of the New Testament.

And may you be blessed as you teach your congregation, and see more and more people come to know about Jesus, put their trust in him for salvation, and then continue growing in the grace and knowledge of who Jesus is, and to make him known.

God bless you. I look forward to having you participate in one of our future GTN courses and then teach others what you have learned for the glory of God and the strengthening of the church.