

## Welcome to the Big Story!

We are grateful you are taking this journey with us! Together, we are going to explore *the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus and shapes life with Him, which is wisdom*. Below is an overview of what to expect on this journey.

1. **Time & Duration** – Each group will meet for a total of ten, 90-minute gatherings to walk through The Big Story together. The specific day, time, location, & start date is unique for each group.
2. **What to Bring** – Yourself and a Bible. You may also find it helpful to bring along the given week's prep work and slide deck to take notes during your discussion. You may also want to bring a journal along as well.
3. **Prep Work** – The prep work is designed to set the table for the group discussion. We encourage people to set aside 1-2 hours each week to walk through the material. You will receive a weekly email containing a link to that week's prep work. Here, you will find the podcast episode(s) as well as the optional "for further study" resources for that given week.

### Design and Request

The Big Story is intentionally designed for each session to build off previous weeks. It is also intentionally designed to be done in community with a trained leader. We therefore ask that you please help us optimize your experience, as well as the experience of others, by not sharing the material with those outside your group. Rather, we invite you to encourage others to participate in a future group, where they too can experience the richness of Scripture in the context of community. Those who are interested in a future group can reach out to Joe at [joe@centerpointnh.org](mailto:joe@centerpointnh.org).

### Let's Journey Together!

We are excited for you to join us on an adventure through Scripture. We are praying that God will draw you & your group closer to Himself as you wrestle with Him through the Story. We look forward to hearing how this experience shapes the way you see & live in the world as you walk with Jesus.

**On the journey with you, together!**

*Joe, Matt & Jess*

## Week #1: The Paradigm

### Prep Work:

#### 1. Watch or listen to the following resources: links found on page #2

- a. Welcome & Introduction Podcast (12 min)
- b. Paradigm – Part 1 Podcast (15 min)
- c. Paradigm – Part 2 Podcast (30 min)
- d. What is the Bible video (5 min)
- e. The Story of the Bible video (5 min)

#### 2. Reflect on the following questions:

- a. We explored three common lenses used for engaging Scripture. The Bible as:
  - i. Answer Book
  - ii. Behavioral Manual
  - iii. Love Letter

In what ways have you experienced one or more of these lenses to be helpful and/or limiting?

- b. In what ways is approaching the Bible as, *“A unified story that leads to Jesus & shapes life with Him, which is wisdom”* new to you?

- c. Is there anything that you find confusing or are still wondering about?

**3. Read the following poem: this poem was read at the conclusion of the Welcome & Introduction Podcast. We invite you to make this prayer your own as you journey through The Big Story.**

**a. “God of the story, You are in and out of the stories we read calling us into them and calling us out of them. Give us courage to listen to our own curiosities as we read old stories. Dare us to ask the questions hidden in the heart of the text. Lead us to mine—with heart and mind and desire and desperation—the many meanings in the one story. Because this is where we find you and where you find us. Amen.”**  
by Padraig O Tuama, from *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*

### **Resources:**

1. Welcome & Introduction Podcast (12 min): [Welcome & Intro.wav](#)
2. The Paradigm - Part 1 Podcast (15 min): [Paradigm - Part 1.wav](#)
3. The Paradigm - Part 2 Podcast (30 min): [Paradigm - Part 2.wav](#)
4. “What is the Bible” video by BibleProject (5 min): [What is the Bible? \[Animated Explainer\]](#)
5. “The Story of the Bible” video by BibleProject (5 min): [The Story of the Bible • What It's About From Beginning to End](#)

### **Slide Deck:**

1. Session Slide Deck: [The Big Story - The Paradigm Slide Deck \(2025\).pdf](#)

### **For Further Study (Optional):**

1. *A Walk Through the Bible* book by Lesslie Newbigin: <https://a.co/d/dOCO3jy>
2. *Asking Better Questions* book by Marty Solomon: <https://a.co/d/eNoXo1f>
3. *The Bible Unfiltered* book by Michael S. Heiser: <https://a.co/d/6tDvOI4>