



## *The Stories We Tell*

### Syllabus for Adult Education & Formation - Spring 2018

*As humans, we love stories, and they effect the way we see our world. As Christians, true story of scripture is a metanarrative that reflects the “one big story” of God’s love woven through many smaller stories and characters. Our world offers other narratives –some adding to the cacophony of our modern culture and some echoing the divine author. Stories have incredible power. They can help bring order and context to our lives, pointing us to God as the source of life. Our own stories also have power, so we seek to share stories of God’s work in our lives. God’s Story, the stories of our culture, and our stories. These are the the stories we tell.*

#### **Class 1 – April 22 – Course Introduction: What is the Story God is telling? (Robbie Pruitt)**

Course Introduction; The Big Story of Scripture - Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration.

*Resources: The Story ESV Bible and The Big Story by Justin Buzzard*

#### **Class 2 – April 29 – Stories of Redemption: Preparing a Personal Testimony (Peter Schwanda)**

Reflect on a few simple questions about God’s work in your life and consider how to share your story.

*Resource: Telling His Story by Telling Yours by Joe Maschhoff*

#### **Class 3 – May 6 – God’s Story: Walking it, Talking it, Sharing it (Guest Speaker: Dr. David Olshine)**

Considering the stories and myths of our culture, how does God’s story counteract and redeem the stories of our lives? How are Christians called to walk in, talk about, and share the story of faith?

#### **Class 4 – May 13 – What are the Stories our Culture is telling? (Mitch & Betsy Hailstone)**

What are some compelling stories from the storytellers (authors, filmmakers, etc.) of our culture? In what ways do they communicate or illustrate truth about God or the human condition?

*Resources: The Stories We Tell by Mike Cospers; Finding God in the Movies (Barsotti & Johnston)*

#### **Class 5 – May 20 – Stories of Restoration: How to Process Your Story (Kelley Cantrell)**

Reflect on a few simple questions about God’s ongoing work in your life.

*Resource: To Be Told by Dan Allender*

#### **Class 6 – May 27 – Sharing Stories: Hearing from our Church Family**

#### **Class 7 – June 3 – Course Conclusion: Sharing Your Story with Friends (Robbie Pruitt)**

After hearing testimonies and having a chance to prepare and reflect on your own experience, we will have the opportunity to share and hear from others in the class in small groups.

#### **Resources or Suggestions for Further Reading:**

- *Living the Story* by John Cunningham
- *The Big Story* by Justin Buzzard
- *Finding God in the Movies* by Barsotti & Johnston
- *The Stories We Tell* and *Faithmapping* by Mike Cospers
- *To Be Told* by Dan Allender
- *Telling His Story by Telling Yours* by Joe Maschhoff

**Course Details: 11:30AM-12:15PM in the Lab Theater, April 22 – June 3, 2018**