

Help your kids find their place in the Story.

Our children are hard-wired for stories. And it's a good thing, because it makes parenting so much easier.

In a very real sense, we are the sum of all our stories. Tell me the stories that roll around in your head, and I will tell you who you are. The stories you hear and tell yourself profoundly shape your identity.

That's one of the reasons why it is so important to give our children a repertoire of good stories. Stories that tell them who they are. Stories that bring joy. Stories that provide strength. And, in view of all the disappointments and hurts that loom ahead, stories that will heal their sorrows and get them home.

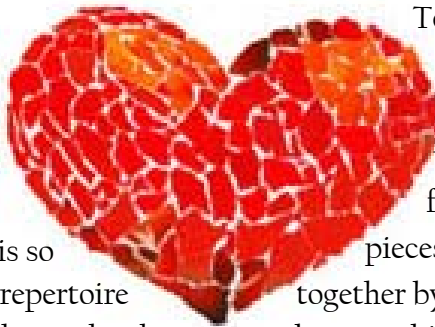
If you are a Christ-follower, you already know that our collective stories are actually a part of a much larger story—God's story. We find ourselves in a plot that begins in creation and ends in the grand consummation. To be sure, each of us has a story—a story where each chapter is significant. But the most important part of understanding our story is seeing how it fits into the huge, overarching story of God.

Now, please don't misunderstand. Sometimes, even for people of faith, it's difficult to appreciate the grander narrative. At times, we get a little too lost in the details of our lives and lose sight of the whole. It's like looking at the backside of a tapes-

try and trying to make sense of it all. Or better yet, it's a lot like looking at a mosaic. Stand too close and you see only disparate pieces. But step back and a beautiful design emerges.

To carry the analogy a bit farther, as parents, one of our greatest privileges is helping our children understand how all the irregular, fragmented, and sometimes broken pieces of their lives can be brought together by the hands of a master artist to make something beautiful. And this is precisely where immersing our children in the rich stories of the Bible proves so valuable.

The Story tells of a God who creatively brings beauty into our tragedy. It tells of One who, despite how overwhelmed we may feel at times—reminds us, "Just keep reading. The story isn't finished. In fact, you're going to find that there's a really good ending."



Southeastern Church of Christ
"Growing Hearts Toward God"

"That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son.... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him."

- Romans 8:28, 29 [The Message]