

HOW TO USE **GOD'S BIG PICTURE**

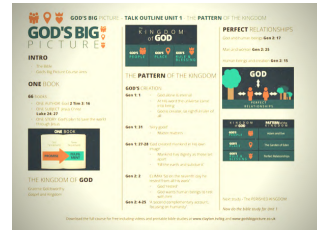
9 UNITS



10 minute video with Vaughan Roberts each covering a stage in the Bible's story



TALK OUTLINE



For scribbling extra notes as you watch Vaughan

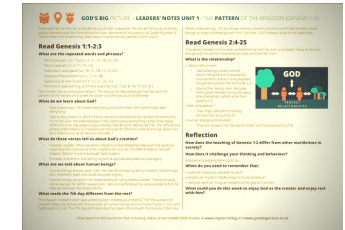
3 PRINTABLES

BIBLE STUDY



Hour long study on a Bible passage related to Vaughan's video

LEADERS' NOTES



Answers and helpful comments about the Bible study questions

(Each printable is 1 sheet of A4 and will print happily as colour or black and white)

WHAT IS THE GOD'S BIG PICTURE COURSE?

It's a totally free Bible overview course tracing the story of the whole Bible, taught by Vaughan Roberts. Each of the nine units takes 1- 1 1/2 hours to do.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Anyone who wants to see more deeply how the whole Bible fits together and understand each passage better in the light of the whole book.

HOW COULD I USE IT?

- In a mid-week group at church, such as a home group
- As an individual watching online
- In a one to one Bible study with a new Christian or someone investigating Christianity
- As an intensive training course on a weekend away

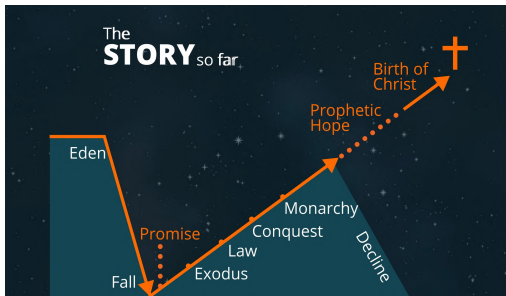
HOW TO DOWNLOAD (for the non techy)

- You can watch all the videos online at www.clayton.tv/big but if you want to play them offline (e.g. in a group setting) download by clicking on the red link under the video. It could take 30 minutes to download them all (at average download speed, 10Mbps).
- Right click to extract the zipped files (or double click on a Mac). There are 10 video files (9 units and an intro).
- Simply double click to play the video files (using the video player on your computer - or install a player e.g. VLC player from www.videolan.org).
- If you want to watch in a group - connect your computer to a TV or projector using an HDMI cable.
- All the printables download as PDF files in the same way.



GOD'S BIG PICTURE

THE STORY SO FAR



THE LAST DAYS

Kingdom 'now' but 'not yet' **Matt 25: 34**



THE REASON FOR THE DELAY

- What seems like a long time to us isn't to God **2 Pet 3: 8**

- God wants more to hear and repent before it's too late **2 Pet 3: 9**
- Chronology of the last days **Acts 1: 8**
SENDING THE SPIRIT →
GOSPEL PROCLAIMED →
JESUS RETURNS

THE SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

- Preaching in other tongues/languages: a reversal of Babel
- A fulfilment of **Joel 2: 28-32**
- The age of the Spirit-
OT - lived only in special individuals for certain tasks
Now - fills all God's people for empowering witness
- The spread of the gospel in Acts:
Jerusalem → Judea → Ends of the World

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

BRINGS NEW BIRTH

- 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' **John 3: 3**
- We need to be 'born of the Spirit' **John 3: 5**
- The spirit opens our eyes to understand the gospel and moves us to repentance and faith
- All Christians have the Spirit living within them **Rom 8: 9**

EQUIPS US TO SERVE CHRIST

- Enables believers to witness to Christ
- Equips us for ministry - gifts to build the church **1 Cor 12: 7**

PRODUCES HOLINESS

- **Rom 8: 13**
- **Gal 3: 14**



A KINGDOM 'NOW' BUT 'NOT YET'

- **2 Cor 12: 9**
- **Rom 8: 23**

KINGDOM of GOD		PROCLAIMED KINGDOM
GOD'S PEOPLE		The Church: believers from all nations
GOD'S PLACE		The Church: God's temple
GOD'S RULE & BLESSING		Relationship with God in the Spirit

Now do the bible study for Unit 8

Next study- THE PERFECTED KINGDOM



Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

When are we tempted to use 'shameful ways' or 'distort the word of God' in evangelism?

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What can we learn from Paul's example?

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What response should we expect?

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Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Explain verse 7 in your own words

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To what extent do v8-12 reflect your experience of evangelism?

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Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

What do these verses tell us about what we can expect now, in this present age?

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What will we receive in the age to come?

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What difference should this hope make to us now?

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GOD'S BIG PICTURE – LEADERS' NOTES UNIT 8 - THE PROCLAIMED KINGDOM (2 COR 4)

In 2 Corinthians Paul defends his apostolic ministry against criticism from opponents who dismiss it as weak and unimpressive. In Chapter 3 he has contrasted his new covenant ministry of preaching the gospel, which leads to righteousness and life, with the ministry of the old covenant, focussed on the law, which leads to condemnation and death. Although we are not apostles, all Christians have the privilege and responsibility of being involved in the ministry of evangelism, so these are valuable lessons for us.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

When are we tempted to use 'shameful ways' or 'distort the word of God' in evangelism?

The backdrop to the whole passage is the assumption that evangelism is difficult and will often be met with a discouraging response. It will therefore be tempting to 'lose heart' (v1; the same phrase used in v16) and, as a result stop being faithful to God. This may be expressed, not in giving up on evangelism altogether, but by doing it in improper ways (e.g. relying on technique and manipulation or adapting the gospel so that people receive a message they want to hear). This was the approach of Paul's opponents.

What can we learn from Paul's example?

- v2b: He resolved to 'set forth the truth plainly'. He knew that his responsibility was simply to be a fruitful messenger of the gospel God had entrusted to him.
- v5: He doesn't draw attention to himself. He doesn't want to be a distraction in any way. His role as a servant of Christ is to point people to him.

What response should we expect?

- v4: Many will not recognise the wonder of the gospel because Satan ('the god of the God of this age') has blinded them.
- v6: The God who created the universe with a word of command can use the same mighty power to bring light into spiritual darkness. He has already done this many times (for Paul on the Damascus Road and for us at our conversion) and we can expect him to do the same for others as we proclaim the gospel.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Explain verse 7 in your own words

Jars of clay were inexpensive, disposable utensils, like plastic cups today. God has deliberately entrusted his precious gospel to weak, unimpressive people, so it's obvious that any fruit from their evangelism is because of God's power, not theirs.

To what extent do vs 8-12 reflect your experience of evangelism?

These verses illustrate the principle Paul has stated in verse 7. Paul really did face frequent exposure to the risk of death. Taking up our crosses and following Christ may not mean that for us, but at times it will certainly involve hardship, discouragement and ridicule.

Through this experience of 'death', God is at work to bring Christ's life to us (v11b), as we are conformed into his likeness, and also through us to others (v12), as they also come to know Christ.



Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

What do these verses tell us about what we can expect now, in this present age?

Refer to the diagram and check that everyone understands it. We live in 'the last days', in between the first and second comings of Christ. The kingdom of God is both 'now' (a present reality that can be entered today) and 'not yet' (it will only fully come at Christ's return). "Outwardly we are wasting away" (v16, because our bodies still experience weakness and illness. But as those who have been joined to Christ, we should expect inward 'renewal' as, by the spirit, we grow in the likeness of Christ (see 3:18)

What will we receive in the age to come?

We will be raised bodily, along with all God's people (v14) and experience 'eternal glory' (v17). God will restore everything in Christ.

What difference should this hope make to us now?

- It will spur us on to keep proclaiming the gospel (v13, 16)
- It gives us the perspective to see our suffering, however great, as 'light and momentary' (v17) compared to the glorious future that awaits us.
- We should focus on vision, not on the difficulties of this present age, which will not last, but on the eternal glory of the age to come (v18).