

The Drama of God

Pastor Jordan Biel | Spring Conference 2022

Brief Commercial for my Book: The Process of a Leader

SLIDE UP - TWO SLIDES - rotate after like 7 - 10 seconds

In the foyer, I've put some copies of my new book out - if you have a dream in your heart - maybe an itch to do something for God but are fighting feelings of inadequacy or maybe struggling with the timing ... OR... you just simply want some advice about what it means to be in godly leadership - leadership that God would be honored by - leadership that invites others to the vision God's put in your heart... check out that book. In the book we look at the lives of Gideon and Joseph and kinda see what they went through and how God used them to save a nation. This book is about developing the heart of Jesus and really surrendering to the call of God on your life.

They're in the foyer today - also available on Amazon but they're here today in the foyer ... So if that's you OR you know someone that you feel is called to ministry or called to leadership pick one up for them after the service. They also make a great coaster if you don't want your drink to put a mark on the table, pick up a book - makes a great coaster - if that's the case, pick up 6 so you've got a coaster book for each drink. =)

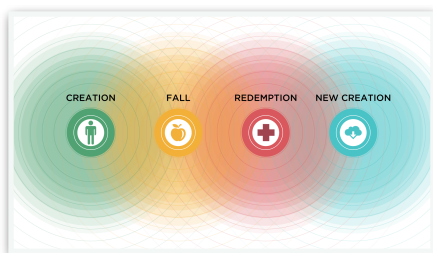
Introduction

Tonight, I'm so glad you're with us! We're going to look at the Gospel through the lens of a great drama - the drama of God - we'll see it play out in 4 "Acts"

I wanted to zoom out far enough for each of you to you **see what God has done for us, what God intends for mankind and hopefully help you see where you fit in this great drama that's unfolding in the world.** Maybe you were invited by a friend; our hope is that you will put your trust in Jesus if you haven't done that yet - that you will experience His unconditional, unending love for you and it will radically change you like it's changed the rest of us here tonight. Let's pray.

Prayer

Father I pray that You would send Your Spirit to invite everyone here and everyone listening online into a deeper relationship with Jesus. God that we would know You - the way that You want us to know You. Move aside my thoughts and anything in my worldview or experiences that would hinder the clarity of Your Word and your truth; reveal Your great love today. Show us who you are as Creator, as Father, as Savior and Friend. In Jesus' name, amen!



4 Slides Here

There are really 4 Acts in this Drama.

1st - Creation

2nd - The Fall

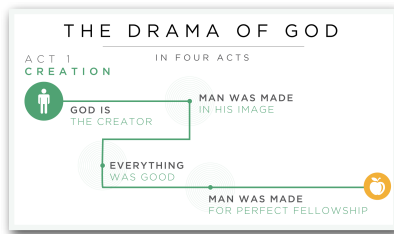
3rd - Redemption

4th - New Creation



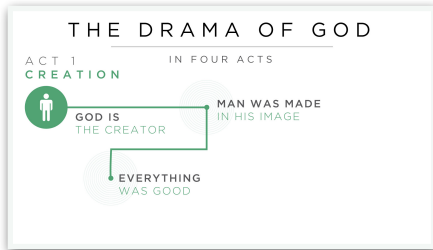
God is our Creator - first and foremost.

When you realize that this is paramount to your life,



everything changes. If you see God only as Father and not first and foremost as Creator, you can accidentally undermine His supreme authority - and forget - that you'll one day stand before Him. The One who Created all things and holds things together.

When God created you, He wanted friendship with you. It's not that He needed you; more that He wanted you. **God still wants to have friendship with you.** Another reason God made you is to reveal His image on the earth - that the whole earth would be full of His glory or full of His image. **Man was made in His image.** You and I are image-bearers.

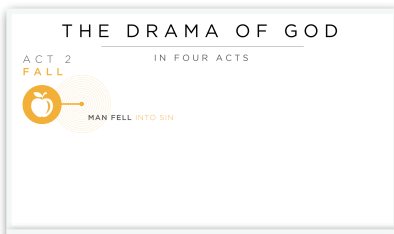


Everything was good. "God saw what He made and it was good" The plants, trees, oceans, stars and mankind - Adam and Eve - it was all good!

God had given "every seed bearing fruit" for Adam and Eve. Thousands upon thousands of trees and fruit and food was given to them but Satan's goal was to convince them that God was not generous or good - that God was actually a

tyrant withholding happiness and good things from them. This is the great lie - the garden lie. "You will be like God..."

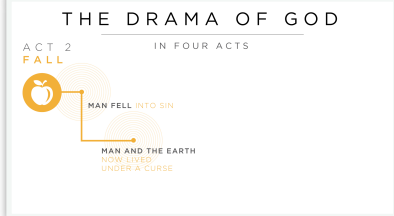
Man was made for perfect fellowship with God. But something awful took place - this where we get to Act 2 of this great drama.



When Satan told Adam and Eve that they would be "like God" knowing everything, pride entered their heart and it's that same pride - that same sin that tells us in our hearts that we too know what's best for our lives apart from God.

Man fell into sin.

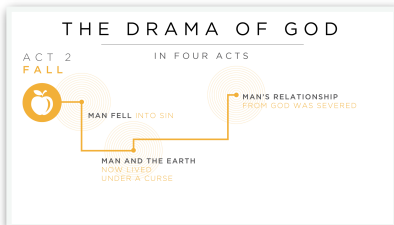
Why do we use that word "fall?" I believe it's because we were once elevated in our right standing with God - when we sin, we fall from that place of union with Holy God - that place of union with our perfect Creator.



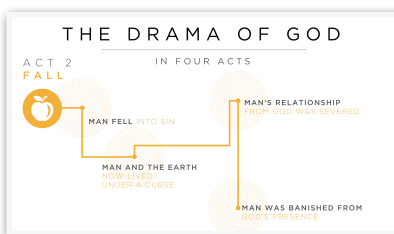
Man and the earth now lived under a curse. While mankind was still intended to bear God's image and reveal His glory on the earth, that was inhibited now. Sin had caused a separation between God and His special creation, man. So Adam and Eve hid from God. People do this still today.

Man's relationship with God was severed. We hide from God when we live under the shame of sin.

That shame and hiding is a sign of living outside of God's blessing and intended purpose.



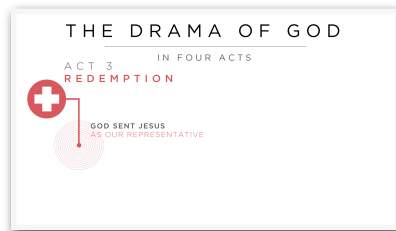
You need to understand that sin is STILL the problem in the world today. Why is a dictator in Russia invading the people of Ukraine and bombing their homes, their hospitals and killing people? Because a man and a regime is compelled by sin - a desire for power. It's the same garden lie that Satan told Eve "You can have power... You can be like God... You can have power over all things and know all things."



Man was banished from God's presence.

God even put an angel to keep them out of the garden of Eden; the Word says "so that they would not have access to the tree of life causing them to live forever." Interesting.

This separation from God broke God's heart. Remember He said "Why are you hiding from Me?" He knew why. He knew they felt shame. Maybe you feel shame at times for what's going on in your life. Maybe you know you've blown it over and over and you just feel like there's nothing you can do to make things right. Well that's true. There's nothing you can do - on your own - to make things right. Only God can make things right and He does that through His Son, Jesus! This is Act 3! This is when everything changed for mankind.

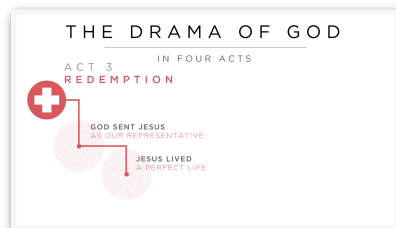


God sent Jesus as our representative.

What you need to know is that there were roughly 2,000 years of mankind having glimpses of God - interventions - miracles where God saved His people and was creating a remnant - a people of His own - this is the Jewish people also known as the Israelites. It's important that you understand what "replacement theology" is and why you shouldn't believe it. Replacement theology says that when God sent Jesus, He did so to replace the people of Israel and make for Himself a new

people or a new family. However that's not what the Bible teaches.

Creator God sent Jesus to extend God's family by inviting all who would call upon His name. Even the miracles of the Hebrew people, the Jewish people, were all signs of a future day, when "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord would be saved" Acts. When Moses is in the desert with the Jewish people after escaping the tyranny of Pharaoh, God instructs him to hoist a bronze serpent upon a cross and tells him to tell all of Israel people "whoever looks upon this serpent on this cross" will be healed of this terminal sickness. The people had been bitten by snakes and they were dying. The snakes that had bitten the people and caused them to die was a picture of Satan who's bite brings death. The bronze snake hanging upon a cross - hoisted up for all to see - what a picture - a prophetic picture - of the day when Christ Jesus would be hoisted up on a cross - hanging there - bearing the CURSE of our sin. Whoever looks upon Him and confesses their sickness / their need for a Savior / would be saved and healed and given eternal life.

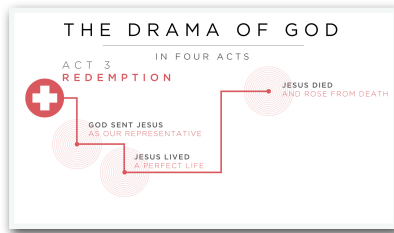


Jesus lived a perfect life!

He was fully God and fully man. While this is hard to describe, he was 100% God and 100% man. He suffered just like we suffered. He suffered anxiety (garden of gethsemane) He suffered betrayal (Judas, Peter, Pharisees) Jesus was "the new human" the "older brother" as Hebrews 6 describes Him, going before us to die in our place.

It's important to know that if we were to back up 700 years to the time when Moses was leading them in the wilderness before they had entered Canaan, the promised land, that Moses was a type of Christ. Moses served a picture of Jesus. He was one of them (an Israelite) but He was saving them and being their voice, their advocate. He was risking everything to lead them out of slavery and into a better life. Jesus is our advocate, our Savior! He risks everything and endures pain so we don't have to! Jesus miraculously rescues us from our own sin. Again with the bronze snake scene, bronze represents judgment. Jesus took our judgment. It's like we're in a court of law; we're convicted of our sin and proven guilty. Jesus stands up and says "I will pay the punishment for their crime." Instead of us dying for our sins, Jesus dies in our place! Romans 3:23 and gives us the gift of eternal life - a life not of just surviving or existing - but

thriving in perfect union - the friendship that God intended in the garden of Eden in the first place.

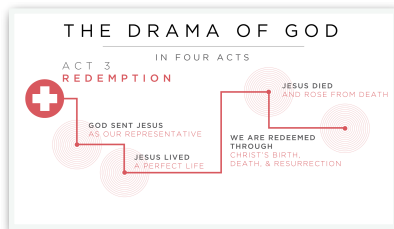


Jesus died and rose from death!

If Jesus would have died on the cross and *not* risen from the dead, we would have no hope. God's Word makes it clear that because Jesus did rise again to new life, verified by the way by multiple eye witness accounts, we are given hope for new life! If many people report the same thing, an audacious radical thing, it gives weight to it's truth. You can possibly convince one person to tell a lie, maybe two. But I love what Tim Keller

says... it's virtually impossible to convince that many people to tell the same lie! Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, John, Andrew, Phillip, Roman Guards... It's not that this resurrection is the greatest scam of all time. It's that the resurrection is the greatest miracle of all time. Jesus proved His power over death and sin by rising from the dead three days after being murdered. The cross showed His love. The grave showed His power. Jesus has won! His resurrection proves His power over every sickness, sin, moral problem, tyranny, selfishness,

lust, revenge, murder... Jesus breaks the cycle of man's revenge and sin!



We are redeemed through Christ's birth, death & resurrection.

Why did I include "birth?" Because Jesus was even BORN a man as if God was making a point. Jesus really is the new human who came to restore humanity to it's former glory. If Jesus had just appeared one day, miraculously at the age of 30 - appearing out of thin air - yes God still could've accomplished His plan of redeeming man that way - but it

would've been missing the element of Jesus growing up - just like us - experiencing pain just like us - experiencing hurt, rejection, sadness, grief, anxiety and worry, just like us! WOW! Jesus didn't just die for us, He died as us.

When Jesus rose from the dead three days later, He didn't just rise for us, He rose as us! When we put our faith in Jesus, it's as if we rise from death. We are born again" like Jesus told Nicodemus.

Eph 2:1-9 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

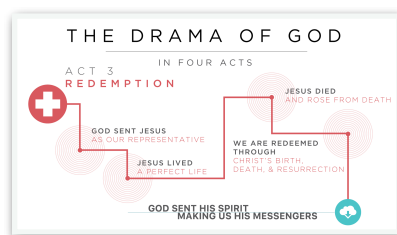
⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

If we don't believe that we are sinners in need of this grace - this forgiveness - this incredible act that Jesus did for us - then we are only lying to ourselves. If we're honest though, we'll see that we've all lied or stolen. We've all lusted and been greedy. We've all had thoughts we wish we didn't have. We've all bent the truth to make ourselves look better at some point in our lives. We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory God intended for us to live in. The glory that we had in the garden of Eden being in perfect union and friendship with God.

We can't do anything to earn this forgiveness! Salvation is a gift! *the-great-drama 18 A
This is what we call "grace" It's God's unmerited favor towards us - seeing us for who can be and not for what we are.

Jesus came to restore that perfect fellowship with God. We were redeemed (bought back, paid for) by Jesus' blood.

Jesus' blood and sacrifice on the cross paid the penalty of our sin, making it possible for us to be in God's holy presence once again and restored to friendship with God.



God sent His Spirit making us His messengers.

Just like the those that gathered 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, we are filled with the Spirit of God so that we have the boldness to tell people about Jesus - so that we can fill the earth with God's glory and share the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel! His Spirit not only empowers us for right living but compels us to tell others about Jesus, the new human, God's Son who made a way for us to be restored to God's original

design!

When God's Spirit filled Peter, Peter was no longer worried about what people thought, fearing rejection or imprisonment. He boldly preached the Gospel - what we just talked about - and 3,000 people were saved! 3,000 people repented of their sins and gave their life to Jesus - choosing to follow Him!

God reconciles us both to God and to one another. The Spirit compels us to bring others to redemption - to faith in Jesus!

God's Spirit is God's voice on the earth; He speaks to us inviting us into deeper levels of relationship with Jesus and compelling us to see people the way Father God sees them.

When His love fills our hearts, we begin to see everyone as a child of God, either living at home restored to Father God or as a runaway, not yet knowing how rich God's love is. We are filled then with compassion and compelled to tell them about Jesus!

In doing this, God creates one people who, together, form the temple, the place where God's Spirit dwells! Each of us are like living stones, gathered together then assembled by God's Spirit. In the assembling, there's a miracle that takes place, together, we take shape and God fills that shape - God fills that temple with His Spirit!

This is where we are now in this great drama! We are in the Age of Grace where God is drawing all people unto Himself through Spirit-filled believers.

We as Christ-followers become His messengers! His ambassadors!

We do this in many different ways.

For some of us, it's Childrens ministry. Last night Julia Felts was serving in our Kids Ministry downstairs and she serves almost weekly in Warren Campus in both worship and in Kids ministry. That is HOW she is a messenger of God's Redemption.

There are a ton of you here tonight who lead Life Groups, maybe you lead a small group at your church - YOU are God's MESSENGER of Redemption! You are carriers of grace!
WOW

We all have an opportunity to be God's Messenger in our jobs - on break at work when we're getting a coffee or striking up a conversation with a co-worker. When we see they're bummed about something - we offer to pray with them - we are inviting HEAVEN to come to earth - we are living out Jesus prayer that through His Spirit HE is seen and His love is felt all over the world ALL at once.

If you're a christian here tonight this is important for you to understand. Jesus could only be in one place at one time. But through His Spirit that fills every believer who simply asks for it, Jesus is able to be a thousand different places at once!

Jesus in YOU is able to minister to people all over the world at the same time!

Danielle was able to pray with a man recently at the Hospital who was really feeling a lot of regret. After she got his story it turns out he used to be a minister. He had asked God for a sign - a sign that God still cared about him and cared about his future. In walks Danielle, a MESSENGER of redemption!

In the four Acts in this great drama of God, we are in this Act 3 - Redemption. The question is, what role are you playing in it? How is God using your life to bring people into redemption - into God's great story of grace?

In large part, that's what my book, the process of a leader, is about. It's about trying to discover what it is God has created you to do and then going for it - not so you can be "successful" as a leader - not so you can "make it" It's for ONE purpose and one purpose only - to bring more sons and daughters into God's family.

Romans says that all of creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God! The waters of the ocean, the branches of the trees, are literally waiting on YOU to realize who you are in Christ - a new creation, a vessel filled with the WINE of God's Spirit - ready and able to bring JOY to people who are without joy - answers to people who have no answers.

There are men and women who are separated from God - separated from the peace that comes with knowing God by knowing Jesus and YOU have that hope, you have that peace! You have the answer that they are looking for! What are you doing with it!?

If you own a business, your employees can be your disciples! YOU are a MESSENGER of Redemption.

If you work in real estate, there are clients you'll be showing houses to - some of them have already had the seed of the Gospel planted in their heart by another believer. You could be the one that brings in the harvest. All you have to do is open your mouth in faith and let the Spirit fill it. Let God fill your mouth with TRUTH that sets them free!

Eph 2:12-22 “Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

So when we follow Jesus together and let the Holy Spirit compel us to love one another, serve another and truly treat each other better than we'd want to be treated, God's glory and God's image is restored to the earth.

In doing so we are bringing heaven to earth!

Today, you might not be restored to relationship with your Creator, with Father God. But you can be! Today you can accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior - the One who died in your place and rose again to new life! We're going to give you that opportunity in just a few moments.



So what's next in this great drama?

It's pretty awesome! It's hope for a new creation!

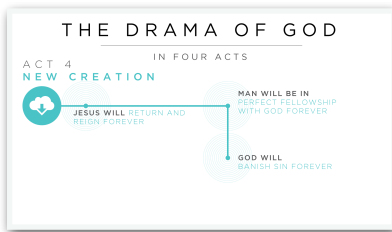
New Creation - Jesus will return and reign forever!

Scripture tells us that Jesus promised His followers and therefore us, that He would come again. He said in Mt 24 that we'd see signs of His coming like wars and rumors of war, plagues and diseases, fear and worry that all these signs in the earth are indicators - flashing lights - that He is coming soon!

1 Th 4:13-18 “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command,

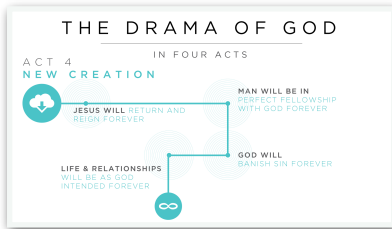
with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up (where we get the word “rapture” is means to be “caught up”) **together with them**

**in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”**



**Man will be in perfect fellowship with God forever.
God will banish sin forever.**

What Adam and Eve first experienced in the garden is restored in the New Heavens and New Earth. We will have union and unhindered friendship with God AND we will worship Him because we will see Him for who He really is.



The Gospel message without the promise of Heaven - the promise of a new creation is an incomplete Gospel. The Gospel message must include the promise that Jesus has given us - the promise that He is making a NEW Eden!

Life and relationships will be as God intended.

That is the promise God gives us about our future.

**I don't about you but I hate sin. I hate the way it separates people. I hate how people hold on to a grudge how their relationship is broken. I hate when families don't speak.
I don't know about you but I hate cancer. I hate how sickness takes people away from us - people that we love!**

The New Creation that God promises - the home in Heaven Jesus has prepared for us has no cancer! It has no sickness! No death! No sin! No punishment. No revenge. No anxiety. No worry. No tears! Heaven is where the perfect presence of Jesus is so beautiful and so bright that lights are even needed for Jesus Himself is the light the Bible says! It's where colors will shine brighter than ever before! It's where angels and amazing creatures bow down before the throne of God and sing praises day and night - singing WORTHY IS THE LAMB! WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN. They sing their praises to Jesus, the Son of God who came as a son of man to make the sons of men sons of God!

WHY DOES ALL THIS MATTER?

**It matters because it answers life's biggest questions. Like ... Who am I?
You're a creation of God!**

LIVING THE DRAMA

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

IT ANSWERS LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

- A:** Creation says you were created by God to bear his image and to live in this world as his representative.
- A:** Creation says you were created to live sinlessly in perfect relationship with both God and man.
- A:** Creation says you were made by God and made in the image of God; you have great significance and great worth.

"Why do I exist?"

At some point in our life, we all ask that. Typically after a tragedy or huge unexpected brush with death — we realize we're given a second chance. We start to think about life after death and we realize that there must be more - there must be life after death! We realize that we were made for a reason - to live in perfect relationship with God.

The lie of satan, your enemy, is all around you. The World will tell you that human life isn't to be valued. The culture today will tell you to save the trees but kill the babies.

The world will put on a fassad of morality - only if it's conducive to their agenda - only if it makes them look more moral than you but in the end, they don't truly believe that you are a special creation and that every human being is a special creation of God.

People who reject God are rejecting the idea of a Creation therefore THEY want to control, they want to tell you how to live and what to do and if it fits their worldview, even if it brings harm to someone it's ok bc after all, to them there is no God.

Man without God views himself as God.

What is the fall about? It's about the NEED for power.



What does the Fall tell us? The fall tells us sin is an evil intruder into this world. Humanity brought sin into the world and it's our fault. It's our fault that we believed Satan's lie that God wasn't good or that we needed more power.

The Fall - Sin - makes it obvious the reason for murder, pain and sorrow. It's sin that causes revenge and a cycle of pain.

It's a cycle that only Jesus can stop - a pain that only Jesus can heal.

When you understand these 4 Acts and the nature of mankind without surrender to God, you'll better understand why a dictator would invade Ukraine.

Or why any leader would convince people to do harm to others - why? If it fits their agenda - if it gives them more power - that's the Garden Lie - you need more than what Creator God has given you.

At the root of every sin and heartache in life is one simple lie ... "You need more than what God has given you."

This drive for power was at the root of Hitler and the regime that killed 6 million Jews. This drive and lust for power was at the heart of Stalin. This drive and lust

for power is still the root that would cause otherwise good people to do terrible things.

It's the root of child abuse, human trafficking and hear me - even deception in the pulpit - pastors who become reckless and abusive to their people.

Is there a solution to this mess?

YES! Redemption says through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the curse of death and sin was defeated and we gained the power to have new life before God. The separation from God is no longer there. We are united with God again!

LIVING THE DRAMA
WHY DOES IT MATTER?
IT ANSWERS LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

A: Redemption says through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the curse of death and sin was defeated and we gained the power to have new life before God.

Is there any solution to this mess?

When we realize that Jesus has forgiven us of our sin, we learn that we too can forgive others. This is where GRACE steps in and stops the cycle of revenge and pain.

Jesus promised us He would come back for us. He doesn't even know the time when He will come. Only the Father knows. God the Father will send His Son Jesus once again

to come to earth but this time not to redeem it by dying for sin but to take to Heaven all who have called upon His name for salvation. He will take to Heaven all who have repented of their sin and chosen to follow Him.

New Creation tells us at some point in the future, God will bring an end to all this pain, suffering, and sin.

LIVING THE DRAMA
WHY DOES IT MATTER?
IT ANSWERS LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTIONS

Is there hope for the future?

A: New Creation tells us at some point in the future, God will bring an end to all this pain, suffering, and sin.

Do you want that hope? That hope that one day you'll spend eternity with Jesus - forgiven of every sin and mistake!

Do you want to know God personally - your Creator?!

Do you want to admit your sin and ask Jesus to forgive you today?

If so, your entire life will change. You will feel like a new person because all the shame and guilt that you carry around - the fear that one day people will know what you've done or what

you've thought - all of that fear and guilt disappears as you look upon the face of Jesus!

Today you can put your hope in Jesus!

If you want to put your hope in Jesus and ask God to make you His child, I invite you to pray this prayer.

Father God, Your Word says that if I confess my sins to You that You are faithful to forgive me of every one of them and make me new. I admit I'm a sinner and that I need Your grace. I need You to forgive me and make a new person - make me born again! I want to be Your child. I'm starting to see now how much You love me and that You know what's best for me and want what's best for me. Because of that, I choose to follow You. God, put Your Spirit in me and come alive in me! My life is Yours, God! I choose to live for You! Thank You for making me Your child! In Jesus' name, AMEN!

If you prayed this prayer today and experienced God's love like never before, I want to invite you to meet with one of our prayer team members who are going to be over on the sides of the sanctuary and they've got a bag of gifts for you - a Bible, a devotional & an invitation to plug in to a Life Group where you can learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.