

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY.

"The Bible is central to the Christian faith; it's not a 'Life for Dummies' manual or a collection of self-help quotations or a list of do's and don'ts... It's the story of God powerfully and ferociously interacting with mankind in order to ultimately reconcile all things to Himself through Christ and bring restoration to all that is broken. But many people are intimidated by its scope and size and too often, we miss the 'forest for the trees.' The Story gives us a way to journey together as a church family from Genesis to Revelation together in 31 weeks so everyone understands God's story and how their story intersects with it. I have great hopes for what God will do at our church in the coming year as we jump into this adventure together." ~ Pastor Jason

The Bible is the best-selling book in all of human history, but how many people are actually reading it? A Gallup survey reports the average American household has around *four* Bibles. However, research by Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (2008) found that only 16 percent of Americans read the Bible every day. *16 percent!* Imagine, the very words of God, sitting in some dusty corner in millions of American homes while families fall apart and people look everywhere for purpose and meaning in their lives while the answers are right in front of them, in some case, just a few feet away!

Here at the Community Church at Murphy's Landing, we are hoping to reverse this trend, starting with our own congregation. Our leadership believes that **The Story** is the right tool to increase Biblical literacy and to help readers understand God's story from Genesis to Revelation and how their own stories intersect with God's. Consisting of 31 chapters of carefully-selected scriptures sequenced in non-versed chronological order, *The Story* presents the word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel. This is how the Bible was meant to be read, and more importantly, *interacted* with!

"I want the people in our church as well in our community to realize the incredible love God has for them and how their story is found in His story. I want our people to know and understand God's Big Story so that we can share it with others confidently." ~ Pastor Paul

Over the next year, our entire church, from ages 5-95, will be using this unique program that has a total of 31 weeks of curriculum for children, teen and adult LifeGroups and up to 31 weeks of corresponding sermons. When accompanied by reading through the five age-related books (*The Story, The Story: Teen Edition, The Story for Kids, The Story for Children, and The Story for Little Ones*), the entire church can be literally on the same page for 31 weeks. Our church plans to begin this all-church experience on Sunday morning, September 11th during our 9:30 am regular service as well as in all of our LifeGroups that begin meeting in homes on various evenings that following week.

With thousands of participating churches nationwide, **The Story** is becoming a movement that is bringing wide-ranging benefits to local churches. Many have reported increased community outreach, increased Biblical literacy, congregational growth and a greater understanding of how God's story reveals the reasons for the things that happen in man's story, not to mention that this experience pulls together all ages for a true inter-generational experience, which is something that is lacking in many churches today.

So, will you join us as we spend 2011-12 experiencing **The Story**? Sunday services start at 9:30 am with childcare provided followed by 11:11 classes designed to equip people to engage their friends, neighbors and family with the message of the Gospel of Christ. For more information, visit www.yourccml.org or email a pastor at: pastorpaulerny@gmail.com or pastorjasonw@gmail.com

In Christ,

Pastor Jason