



Part Two: Finding Your Place in the Story // Carey Nieuwhof // September 20, 2020

Why is life so hard? That's a great question, and while the answer doesn't take the pain away, it's much easier to understand when you realize that your story--like every story--has a beginning, middle, and end. Knowing where you are in your story makes it much easier to understand, accept, trust, and even thrive.

Scripture: [Genesis 3:1-13 NLT](#) [Revelation 22:1-5 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: It's much easier to make it through the middle when you realize this isn't the end.

Getting Started:

1. What from Carey's message stood out to you, confused you, challenged you, or encouraged you?
2. What is your favourite movie or book? Why?

Jumping In:

3. In what ways do most movies or stories follow the biblical plotline of *creation* (everything's good), *fall* (evil, struggle, and tension), and *redemption* (hero overcomes and everything works out great)? Can you think of any examples?
4. Why do you think we keep telling that story?

Discuss:

5. Re-read Genesis 3:1-13 and Revelation 22:1-5. How does heaven reverse and restore what was lost in Eden?
6. In the message, you heard about the wider biblical framework of beginning (Eden), middle (now), and end (Christ's return)? How does that help you understand your place in the story?
7. What happens if you keep telling yourself that this is the end or that there's nothing better coming?

8. Carey shared a camping story during the message. How does knowing there's a secure ending affect our ability to endure difficulty? When has this been true for you personally?
9. What difference will it make to you to know this is not the end of your story, that Christ's full restoration is still coming?

Moving Forward:

This week, reframe your place in the story. How will your endurance, resilience, and hope change, knowing that the end of the story is still to come?

Changing Your Mind:

"Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations." Revelation 22:1-2