**The Story Sunday Morning Discussion Group Week 23**

Discussion questions:

1. At the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17), what did the people see and hear and how did this clarify who Jesus was?
2. After forty days in the wilderness Jesus face three temptations from the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). What was each temptation and what did Jesus say to fend off each? How does Satan use similar types of temptation in our lives today?
3. How can knowing Scripture help us battle against daily temptations? Tell about a time you used Scripture to stand strong against the enemy.
4. Chapter 4 of The Story told of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:1-30) which was slain and whose blood was placed on the doorpost to protect God’s people in Egypt from the angel of death. Now John the Baptist calls Jesus “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). First century Jews knew all about the Passover and the sacrificial system. What message would John’s words about Jesus have sent them and what message should it send us today?
5. As Jesus called people to follow him, many immediately invited someone else to meet the Savior. Who has god placed in your life that you would like to invite to know Jesus?
6. In Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), Jesus talked about the Upper Story while Nicodemus focused on the Lower Story. How do you see these two stories conflicting in their conversation? How did Jesus help Nicodemus think in Upper Story terms? What does Jesu reveal to Nicodemus and to us about the heart of God, heaven, and judgment in this passage?
7. Jesus told the woman at the well that God looks for people who will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24). What helps you connect with God’s Holy Spirit? What helps you grow more authentic and truthful as you worship?
8. Jesus sought out quiet places where he could meet with the Father face-to-face (Mark 1:35). Why is it important that Christians today make regular time to be quiet before God? How are you doing in this area?

Homework: When Jesus called Levi (Matthew) to follow him, new relational bridges were built (Mark 2:13-17). Matthew invited Jesus to his house for a party and also invited all his “old friends”, who happened to be tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners. When Christians invited committed believers and nonbelievers to a place where they can connect relationally good things can happen. Consider planning a party or dinner and invite both committed Christians and spiritual seekers. Pray for God to do great things…and see what he does.