

Guidelines on how we should treat each other

Tabernacle accommodations

Atonement for sins

The God of the Upper Story wants to do life with the Lower Story

Discussion questions:

1. If we see God as a cosmic killjoy just waiting for people to do something wrong so he can catch and punish them, how will this impact our relationships with him?
2. The Ten Commandments are the basic “rules of the road” for how people are to relate to God and each other (Exodus 20:1-17; *The Story*, pp.61-62). How would our lives and faith improve if we followed these commands (in action and in spirit)? What can we do to embrace and follow these commands more fully?
3. Randy unpacked the reality that God is seeking to come down and connect with his people...with us! He said that three things need to happen for God to draw near to us in the Lower Story and experience his presence. Why is each of these so important?
 - There must be rules to guide how people relate to God and to each other
 - God will need a place to stay
 - Sin must be atoned for
4. God no longer dwells in tents or temples; he lives in us (Acts 7:48-50; 1 Corinthians 6:19). How does recognizing that God dwells in us help connect his Upper Story to our Lower Story on a daily basis?
5. God showed his love for people and his desire to connect the Upper and Lower Story by moving into their neighborhood. He settled in, right in their midst. God is still seeking to connect with us on a deeply personal level. What are ways you experience the presence and care of God breaking into your daily life?
6. This chapter of *The Story* and Randy’s lesson both reveal the third thing God had to do so that we could experience his presence in a personal way. The biggest obstacle of all needed to be overcome...human sin. Sacrifices needed to be made so that human wrongs could be cleansed and covered over (atoned for). How does the sacrificial

system found in *The Story* and the book of Leviticus pave the way for the final sacrifice that would wash away all sins forever (the death of Jesus on the cross)?

7. “Mad Cow Disease”, as Randy called it, was an example of people trying to invent their own religion, to create their own way to God. How do people still do this today and how are the results just as disastrous?
8. God promised that his presence would be with the people and they would stand out in the world because of it. This is still true today. What are some ways Christians should stand out in our world? Name one area of your life in which you sense God is calling you to look different to the world because he is with you.

Homework: Jesus took the helpful, life-giving information of the Ten Commandments and clarified it in the Sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 5:17-48 this week. Let Jesus’ teaching grow your understanding of how the commandments of God bring life and hope.

For next week: Read Chapter 6 of *The Story* (Numbers 10-14,20-21,25,27, Deuteronomy 1-2,4,6,8-9,29,32,34)