

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Are you planning to begin the year 2014 with a resolution or two that will bring positive change to your life? At Bethel, we are doing the same. Ever since we met in small groups over the Summer, we have looked for ways to make room for an adult Sunday morning Bible Study group. In October, many of you have participated in the surveys done during our worship services. During our congregational meeting on November 3, our Worship & Music co-leaders presented you with the outcome of those survey as the new Sunday morning structure. To refresh your memory, this is what our Sunday mornings will look like from January 12, 2014, on:

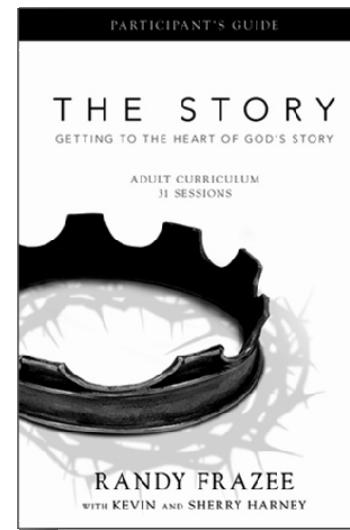
8:45-9:45	Traditional Worship Service	
9:45-9:55	Fellowship Time <i>(10 minutes)</i>	Nursery Kid Connection Confirmation Class Youth Group
9:55-10:35	Adult Bible Study <i>(40 minutes)</i>	
10:35-10:45	Fellowship Time <i>(10 minutes)</i>	
10:45-11:45	Contemporary Worship Service	

We recognize that this time change will require some adjustment for each one of us. Some may have to get up a little earlier, while others will have to stay at Bethel a little later. We are grateful to all of our leaders and members for the sacrifices they are willing to make for the sake of the whole. All this is done for one reason only – to help us better understand God's word and to provide opportunities for each one in our community to grow in faith and Christian love.

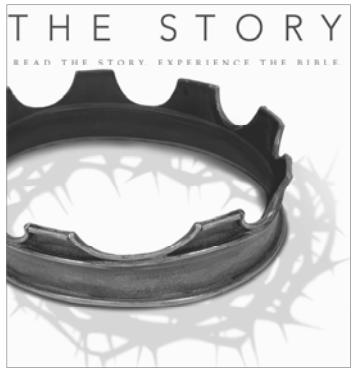
The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide you with more information about the curriculum that will be implemented on January 12 – "The Story."

The Story is a condensed chronological Bible, and in our church-wide journey through it we're going to discover how our story fits into God's story.

The fundamental idea of this Bible Study is that the Bible contains an Upper Story and a Lower Story. The Upper Story tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God unfolding throughout history. The Lower Story contains the sometimes delightful, other times appalling particulars of human experience that we find in the stories of the Bible. Without the lens of the Upper Story, the Lower Story seems out of focus and perplexing. As we make our way through *The Story* we will be mindful of both the easily-seen events and the not so obvious yet truly eternal realities.



People who know the Bible and live with its stories tend to focus more and more on the Upper Story and live in that realm. Their knowledge of that Upper Story colors how they apply God's word to their lives. It is knowledge of that Upper Story that gets us through the hard times in life, more than the Lower Story information does. Beginning believers tend to focus more on the particulars of a story and its immediate application, while more mature believers are able to put all they read into the larger picture of God's overall story, and make application from that level of reading. It is important for us to arrive at this more mature approach so we get away from the habit of isolated-verse-only application. This also will protect us from the common misapplications that can be made with some texts, including the "what it says to me" error that rips a verse out of its historical context. The Upper Story guides us into seeing every text as fitting into a bigger whole.



A limited number of participant guides is available for purchase (for \$10). More can be ordered, if needed.

The "Story" curriculum is published by Zondervan and designed for **31 weeks**. Classes will be taught initially by Pr. Gabi, eventually by members of the congregation (volunteers welcome!). Please talk to Pr. Gabi or Bethel Discipleship Ministry lead, [Kathy Arnold](#), if you have any questions or concerns.

- Yes! I will commit to being part of the Story.
- I will do personal Story studies or journaling.
- I will lead Sunday morning adult Bible Study classes.
- I will participate regularly in The Story Bible Study classes on Sunday mornings
- I choose to align my life to God's story.

**More information on the new curriculum can be found at
www.thestory.com**



Your Name:

Contact Information:

(please tear off
and place into offering plate)

www.bethelcupertino.org