



A Summary of the Great Story of Jesus



In The Beginning . . .

Adam and Eve lived in perfect relationship with God, each other, and the whole of creation, stemming from the divine life which they received from God. This is what God originally intended for all of us—an experience of intimacy and union with him that would never end. This is the Kingdom of God.

Adam and Eve's disobedience ruptured that perfect relationship. Because they were the first human beings, their fall deprived all of us of divine life, separating us from the One who created us. Sin, death, illness, and suffering entered into human life. In his goodness, God himself came to set the situation right. The Father sent the Son to call the whole human race back to himself.

Through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus satisfied the Father's justice and mercy, paying the price for sin and making the divine life—the life of the Kingdom—once more present in creation and available to all who desire it.

Now Jesus invites each of us to receive a share in his very own life, lived in communion with the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit . Thanks to Jesus' redeeming work, we are all sons and daughters of the Father.

Jesus makes this kingdom life freely available to us as a gift. All we need to do is turn away from sin (repent), offer God our hearts, and receive baptism.

In this way we are made new, and we become part of Christ's body, the Church. Cooperating with the love, mercy, and grace we receive through the sacraments, we grow more like Christ as his disciples and represent him to the world, manifesting the

love and power of the Kingdom in the ordinary circumstances of life. Thus the Church is the seed of the kingdom, already present in creation and bearing fruit, yet awaiting the time when Christ will come again and the kingdom of God will be present in its fullness.

For Reflection

Take a moment now to reflect on your own story of Jesus in relation to the Great Story:

- Are there any parts of the Great Story that touched or affected you more than others ?
- Are there any areas of your life that have been transformed by the life, death, resurrection, or ascension of Jesus Christ?
- Are there any areas of your life that resist that transformation?
- Have you ever made an intentional decision to follow Christ as His disciple? If not, what might be keeping you from making such a conscious decision?

