



June 2, 2019

OPEN

Have you seen [Tolkien](#), the biopic about the brilliant story teller, J. R. R. Tolkien, author of the Hobbit, Lord of the Rings, and other tales? In the prelude to this movie, this was shown: “**Find your story...only at Cineplex.**”

However, our personal story will only take shape once we come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our story of salvation in Jesus is to be celebrated. Read **Psalm 105:1-5** with this in mind.

DIG

Now, read **Psalm 105:1-7** and ask yourself, “Is this my story or is this Israel’s story?” I thought.

We are assured in many passages that there is no separation between Jew and Gentile, because of Jesus Christ (see **Romans 2, 9**). **Ephesians 2:13-14a** tells us, “*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He himself is our peace.*” If you are a follower of Jesus Christ by faith, you are a child of God and part of *spiritual Israel*.

As a celebration of God’s glory in salvation Psalm 105 fits well between **Psalm 104**, which celebrates God’s glory in creation (v. 24), and **Psalm 106** which features God’s glory in sanctification (vv. 41, 47).

Read carefully the following sections of **Psalm 105** and consider God’s purposes for rescuing us.

Verses 8-24 A people designed by God’s covenant to know and love Him

Verses 25-38 A people redeemed by and baptized into God’s mighty name

Verses 39-45 A people brought into abundant life, bringing glory to God

Followers of Jesus must grow into our story

We are not called into a comfortable concept of spirituality. We are invited to a quest. The hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, was comfortable in his home but was compelled to go on an adventure. As Gandalf told him, “home is now behind you, the world is ahead.”

F. B. Meyer said: “***We never test the resources of God until we attempt the impossible.***”

Psalm 105:4 in the NLT says this: “Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.”

It is vital to have a **Discipleship Pathway** at Cornerstone which is built from our [core values](#) - consider four stages:

- 1 Relating
- 2 Serving
- 3 Depending
- 4 Multiplying

Followers of Jesus must walk out our story

1. *Contemplation - pondering God deeply*

Psalm 104:34 states, “*May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.*” What is meditation? It is the proactive percolation upon the pure and praiseworthy. Check out “Being more pedestrian: the simple and profound joy of walking in a life of faith” (***Faith Today***, May/June 2019, 30)

2. *Intercession - petitioning God dependently*

You are invited to [prayer walk](#) (“pray-ambulate”) in our community. Intercession is seeking God on behalf of others. “Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.” (***The Preacher And Prayer***, E. M. Bounds, Zondervan, 1946, 26)

Followers of Jesu must connect with other stories

Meaningfully connecting with one another can be delightfully extrapolated from Psalm 105. The story of Israel has become our story. The separation between Jew and Gentile is gone. What was once the ultimate “distinct society” is now the people of God everywhere who believe in Jesus.

This summer we want to put this truth into practice by having a number of ways of connecting – see [Cornerstone Events](#).

Remember the importance of eating salad as we are taught in Hebrews 10...

- 1. **Let us** draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance - v. 22
- 2. **Let us** hold fast to the hope we profess - v. 23
- 3. **Let us** spur one another to love and good deeds - v. 24
- 4. **Let us** encourage one another, not giving up meeting together - v. 25

REFLECT

What is your story? Are you in relationship with Jesus Christ by faith? Is He your Savior? Then He is the one who will shape your story, to His glory.