

**REWRITTEN**  
**WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**"REWRITING HISTORY"**

**READ**

This week we continued our Christmas series, titled "Rewritten", looking at the gospel of John, one of the four accounts of the life of Jesus. He doesn't write about the details of Christmas, he tells us the meaning.

**John 1:1 & 14**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...*

John is talking about Jesus, referring to him as the word of God. In the bible, God's words are means for accomplishing his will. John makes it clear what God's will is by quoting from Genesis. Genesis 1 is Israel's creation story, where God's words create a good world but creation ends up under a curse of sin and death. In Jesus, God's words are active again. In Jesus God is rewriting the story of all creation.

This is happening on both a cosmic and a personal level. In Romans 8 Paul talks about creation being subjected to frustration and bondage, waiting to be saved. On a personal level we are invited to be part of this new creation. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)* If we place our lives into Jesus we become part of this new creation and he rewrites our stories.

This sounds impossible, how can something that has already happened be rewritten? Jesus doesn't change what happened, he rewrites our story by changing its meaning. Jesus did this with Israel by changing the meaning of Israel's history.

**Matthew 5:17**

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."*

The law and prophets are the OT, Israel's story and history. Jesus said he fulfilled it, that it all led to him. After Jesus' resurrection, Luke records this story where a couple of followers of Jesus were walking along a road when he showed up, and this is what he told them...

**Luke 24:27**

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

Paul argued that everything God originally promised to Israel through Abraham was fulfilled in Jesus. *"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed" (Galatians 3:16)*. Scripture does

not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Jesus changed the way his followers understood the Old Testament story. It gave them a whole different perspective on their past. The past events still happened, but because of Jesus they had a whole different meaning. When Jesus rewrites our story, he does the same thing. He doesn’t change what happened in our past, but he does change what it means.

### **Romans 8:28**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

It doesn’t say all things are good, because they aren’t. It says God works all things for good. Jesus did that for Israel. Even the parts of their story that were difficult and painful. God worked them for good in Jesus. The same thing happens in peoples’ lives. You see it over and over in the Bible. In stories like Joseph, Moses, Ruth, and Paul. Their biggest struggle and greatest pain became their greatest victory.

If you open your life to Jesus and experience his love and forgiveness, his scars will transform your scars into a source of healing in your life and in the lives of others. God didn’t give you those scars for that purpose, but he is able to redeem them through his own and make something good. That’s the power of a rewritten story. Christmas is how God began to rewrite history, and it’s an invitation for us to become a part of this new story. Because of Jesus, your life can have a brand-new narrative.

### **DISCUSS**

Just for fun, share about your favorite Christmas movie. Why is it your favorite?

Reflect on someone you know who has a story rewritten, given new meaning, by God. What does that look like in their life?

God can redeem our scars and make them a source of hope and healing in the lives of others. Have you experienced hope and healing from the scars of someone in your life?

How has God rewritten, given new meaning, to your story?

Share about a scar in your life that God used to provide hope and healing to someone else.

### **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that our scars would serve a purpose, that God would use them to provide hope and healing for others.

**PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that we would live transformed lives as new creations in Christ. Pray that we would point others to Christ as we reflect his character and conduct in our lives.

**PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Pray that our global partners would provide hope and healing to others as their scars are used for a purpose. Pray that doors would be opened for them to share the good news of Jesus with unreached people.