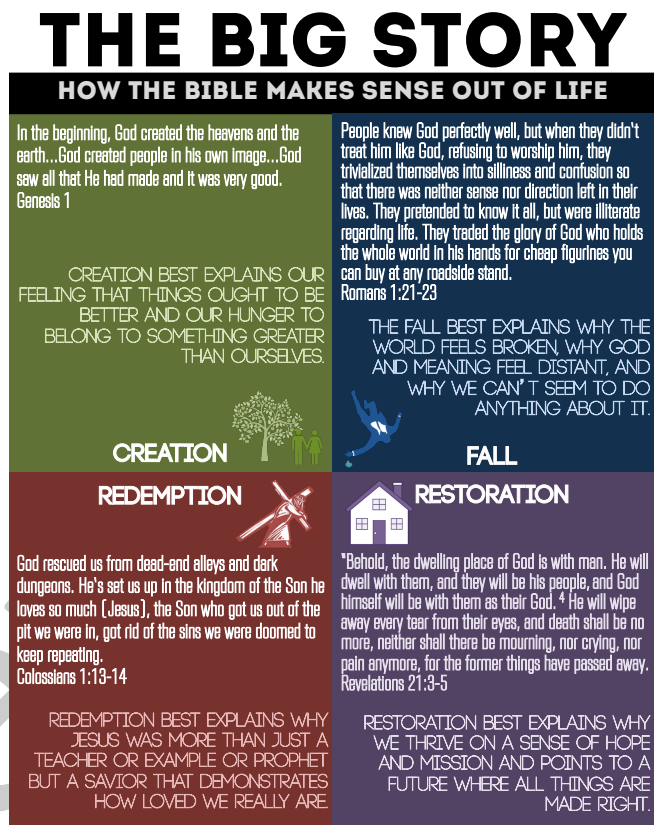




The Big Story – context of the Good News

Sometimes less is better. Einstein said *Be as simple as possible, but not simpler.*

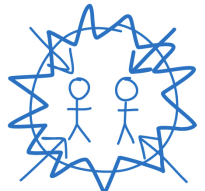
When a seeker or new believer is flooded with too much information, simple is best. The **Big Story** organizes the biblical message into four simple sections: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. It builds on a universal premise, *this world isn't the way it ought to be.* The Bible agrees, showing why it isn't and what God did to rectify it. Here's a summary of the Big Story (see diagram). **(As a DiscipleMaker, become familiar with each section, including the Bible references, to address the issue of this messed up world. Think through how to tell another person.)**



Creation: you can draw this simply as a circle. (designed by James Choung). We all have a sense that the world should be healthy and whole, our common *ache*. That's the story of creation, how God designed the physical world and our relationships to be **good**. **(Consider how you'd explain this)**



Fall: we know many things are broken, especially relationships. The Bible tells why. Temptation, a choice to disobey God. Separation from him. Death. The curse of putting life together without God. All these and more show the breakdown God's original, good plan. **(Practice how you'd explain this)**



Redemption: how can the brokenness get fixed? God intervened by sending Jesus, his son. He showed a new way to live (he termed it *the*



kingdom of God) and calls us to become part of it. He allowed himself to be broken on the cross, absorbing the evil and suffering of the human race and accepting the judgment of it. **(Tell the story of Jesus, his uniqueness, his suffering in our place)**

Restoration: with his resurrection, Jesus started reversing the brokenness. His healing begins within us as we accept his new life and become God's adopted children. Jesus heals broken relationships by working through us to forgive and care for others. Ultimately he'll restore the planet, even the universe. He invites us to partner with him to expand the kingdom. **(Challenge your friend to open their life to Jesus and join him on mission)**



Believer