January 11, 2015 - In The Beginning
Sermon Notes Page

1 - **First**: all stories have one thing in common: Characters, people._____

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2 - **Second:** Our Bible does tell a story, but is the word of God, not just some collection of fairy-tales written by a few men with nothing better to do. It is the living, breathing, life changing, hope bringing, healing, cleansing, restoring, and refreshing word of God.__

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3 - **Third:** Your story is not just about you. _____

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4 - **Make time:** The process of "making time" in going to be different for everyone. Our lives are as unique as a fingerprint. The challenge for you will to identify areas of your life that are out of balance, Then to take the steps necessary to correct the imbalance. Make a list of the areas in your life that you believe are out of balance, then list at least two steps that you can take to correct that imbalance. **Pray about how God may be directing you to make these changes** and write down what you feel is being spoken to you._____

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5 - **Live deliberately:** No matter how hard we try we will, in some way, be influenced by the people around us. This is not a bad thing, but it is not always a good thing either. The challenge for us is to remain aware of it. **Pray about the people that are in your life**. Not just your family, pray about those you work with, ride the bus with, the person who makes your coffee, your favorite waitress, even the person who delivers your mail. What influence do they have in your life, and what influence do you have in theirs. Looking back over the past 5 years, what choices, if any, where you would like to get a "do over"? Briefly describe those choices and then honestly ask yourself about who else in your life influenced that choice.

6 - **Find your place, fulfill your role:** No one can tell you what your personal calling is, or the plan that God has for your life. However, you do not need a Phd to figure it out. Pray and ask the Lord to help you identify what you should be involved in. At the same time get involved in something. There is an old adage "its easier to steer a ship when it's moving." Make a list of the areas of service you know exist in your church, and pray over each area. Make a list of anything you can do to help in those areas, then make an appointment with a pastor or elder to discuss what you feel God speaking to you.