

Ninth Grade – What’s the Big Story

This session is designed to serve as an introduction to the remainder of this grade’s curriculum. We want students to develop an understanding of the metanarrative of Scripture, the bigger story at work through all the bible stories they’ve grown up learning. Knowing the bigger story helps root us in the foundational truths of Scripture, it helps us interpret the passages we study individually well, through the lens of the whole story of Scripture, and it helps us learn to tell the Story well. To that end, this week of curriculum is NOT focused on an individual passage of Scripture, but instead, on helping students begin to visualize the scope and sequence of the stories they already know in Scripture.

Introducing the Topic

This week we will need some tools. Have index cards or pieces of paper as well as pens for each table. Tell students you are going to work together to write down as many stories and verses from Scripture as they can remember. Spend a significant chunk of time encouraging students to each write down as much as they can!

The Activity

Now this activity moves from individual work to group work. Before this process kicks off, pick a wall in your room to use as the timeline of Scripture. Go person by person and have them read out loud the story or verse they wrote down, and then place it on the wall, and as you read out more and more stories...work together as a class to place them in the right order on the “timeline”. The goal is to eventually, after everyone has shared their stories they can remember, to have a visual representation of the whole story of Scripture!

Practical Application

After the whole timeline is on the wall, take some times in groups to answer the following questions.

- Looking at the whole timeline on the wall, how would you summarize the whole story?
- Are there any repeating themes you see in these stories?