

"Elizabeth's book helps us find our place in  
God's big story." —Scotty Smith

# LIVING GOD'S STORY OF GRACE

Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage



You are in for a deeply moving, interactive Bible study like you have never experienced. This is an amazing look at who God is and who that makes you. I am oversimplifying but not overrating. If you have explored God's story as introduced in Elizabeth's first book, and therefore your own story written by his Spirit in his glorious Word, you will again have an opportunity to look at all that God is and be awed, moved, and changed forever. This study is wildly inviting for individuals and groups of two or more. You will develop eyes of faith and hope to not just see your story, but to know it must be lived to the fullest as you see with your mind and heart the truths in the Word that reassure us all that God's story and ours is going somewhere! You will be entering your story with those of your group, living your stories together as you share authentically and praying them together. These times will be full of glorious thanksgiving and praise. We know the end of the story for all of us who call on the name of Jesus—the fulfillment of our hope and purpose. This is truly a study like no other.

—**Nancy Puryear**, women's ministry director, Christ Community Church, Franklin, Tennessee

What a gospel-saturated gift Elizabeth Turnage has given us in her new book, *Living God's Story of Grace*. Anchored in the text of the Scriptures, singing with the beauty of grace, Elizabeth's book helps us find our place in God's big story—the doxological drama of redemptive love and restoration that unfolds from Genesis through Revelation. Accessible to the youngest believer and helpful to the most mature, *Living God's Story of Grace* will have multiple applications: Sunday school classes, leadership training, small groups, friendship enrichment, gospel coaching, and mentoring relationships, to name several. This is story-work at its best—highlighting *God's* story yet showing us our significant place *in* that story.

—**Scotty Smith**, pastor for preaching, teaching, and worship, Christ Community Church, Franklin, Tennessee

Elizabeth Turnage understands the power of story, the power of God and Scripture, the power of prayer, and the power of shared stories in community. She puts all this together in calling readers to see God's story in their own, to share their stories with each other, and thereby to give their individual and collective stories greater richness and meaning. This is a book that will change lives.

—**Daniel Taylor**, professor of English, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota

## PRAISE FOR *LEARNING GOD'S STORY OF GRACE*

Elizabeth Turnage is quite a writer. Her storytelling is compelling and engaging. I've often started to read something she has written with the intention of reading a little bit each day and found myself unable to put it down until I finished. I know her writing has ministered to my soul and to many others.

—**Tremper Longman III**, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California

To read Elizabeth's words is to understand the relationship between the lyric and music of a great song. Her passion to tell the Big Story of redeeming love through the everyday events and often the crises of life reveals the melody of God's grace and the beauty of his truth. Some people write a book because they want to be understood. Elizabeth writes so others will dance.

—**Scotty Smith**, pastor for preaching, teaching, and worship, Christ Community Church, Franklin, Tennessee

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LIVING STORY BOOKS

*Learning God's Story of Grace*

*Living God's Story of Grace*

LIVING  
GOD'S  
STORY OF  
GRACE

Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage

  
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Through the small and large surrenders in minute and momentous struggles, God perfects our faith. Often he sends special companions to help us along during difficult seasons. This text has begun, continued, and ended for me with a long, hard season of three separate shoulder surgeries. Two persistent healers have walked the road of suffering with me, showing me what it means to hope and believe on another's behalf. For their unflagging persistence in bringing new health to me, I thank:

My longsuffering husband, the madly skilled orthopedic surgeon Kip Turnage.

And my brilliant, kind, and ever-humorous physical therapist, Ken Byrd.

Faith and hope grow as we tell and hear one another's stories. I would like to thank two deeply faithful and profoundly hopeful women, Heather Ferguson and Hope Parker, for so graciously telling their stories.

Kip and I are blessed to walk with four uniquely storied children of faith, now young men and women who believe and hope and love together. Robert, Mary Elizabeth, Jackie, and Kirby: in your lives, God reveals his unfailing love.

Finally, to the many companions who encourage me to set my hope anew on the Lord, your names are in my heart, and I thank our God in every remembrance of you.



## INTRODUCTION

**I**n our hometown of Pensacola, Florida, hurricane stories are a part of local lore. After one devastating hurricane, I was trading tales with a fellow soccer mom. After telling her about our action-packed evacuation, I asked her what she and her family had done. Her answer made me want to laugh—and cry: “We stayed inside and thought happy thoughts.” At first it seemed ludicrous. “What earthly good did you think that would do?” I thought. But then I realized that the happy-thought approach may be the only hope for a world without a larger narrative.

The twenty-first century has ushered in the grand era of disbelief or any-belief. Believe in nothing, because there is nothing to believe in. Or believe anything you want; just don’t trample on my belief. One bumper sticker expresses the attitude toward hope: “I’ve given up hope and I feel much better.” To many struggling hearts of the twenty-first century, faith and hope are at worst scornworthy and at best silly.

The Bible tells us that Christian believers also struggle with faith and hope. “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24 NKJV). This honest cry of a father seeking healing for his son expresses the heartfelt plea of every Christ-follower who longs to live a life of faith and hope. We do believe. But we are afraid. Today we believe the gospel: Jesus has come to establish a new kingdom in the world, and he has begun the process of restoring

## INTRODUCTION

peace and securing hope. And tomorrow (or five minutes from now or at this very moment), we fear that this King won't really rescue us from our struggle with the enemy of light.

When we live in fear rather than faithfulness, when heartache overcomes hopefulness, we often try to take matters into our own hands to bring certain endings to small stories. Remembering the redemption stories that Scripture tells as well as the ones that God has written into our lives helps us to surrender trust back to its rightful object: our Savior King. It is in God's faithfulness, not our own, that we trust (faith) and wait (hope).

Living lives of the radical faith and extremist hope to which the gospel calls us is the best way to communicate God's story of grace to a bewildered and searching world that looks into its own heart and sees nobody home. God gives us faith and hope; he deepens these qualities as we live them out in daily life. In part 1 of the Living Story series, we learned the central narrative of Christian believers; in part 2, we will explore what it means to live this story in faith and hope.

## GOD'S STORY OF GRACE AND FAITH AND HOPE

To begin understanding how these core themes of our lives function, let's review what we studied in *Learning God's Story of Grace*.

- ✿ **Creation:** God creates the cosmos with order and purpose. He creates humans in his image, with dignity and for delight, with differentiation and for dominion. In this beginning chapter of redemptive history, humans live in a state of shalom, a state of "rest." Faith and hope characterize their lives.
- ✿ **Fall:** Adam and Eve, succumbing to Satan's suggestion, decide that they know better than God what they need

for life and beauty. In a dramatic act of faithlessness, they consciously rebel against God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Unwilling to wait (hope), they take and eat, and immediately they experience shame and alienation. They turn to hiding, blaming, and shaming (putting their hope in something other than God) in futile attempts to restore lost shalom.

- ✿ **Redemption:** God, the faithful pursuer of his lost children, offers an immediate reason for hope, announcing the plan for redemption, telling a story of a coming chapter when Eve's offspring (Christ) will crush Satan. The remainder of Scripture continues the story of the perfectly faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. In him alone we experience promised rest.
- ✿ **Consummation:** Hope is focused on the resurrection of Christ and the "one day" when he will come again, bringing with him God's New Jerusalem. The momentum of the story toward the complete restoration of shalom provides the foundation for a life of faith and hope now.

## LIVING THE STORY

Scripture calls us to learn and rehearse God's story of grace, because doing so calls us to live a life of faith, hope, and love—the essence of worship:

- ✿ Faith means trusting in God for life and hope rather than other gods.
- ✿ Hope means believing that God is doing brand-new things in the midst of wrecked shalom.
- ✿ Love is living in and telling our story to a broken world sorely in need of a life-transforming story.

## THE GUIDE

This Bible study aims to bring the transforming power of the gospel to bear on your life. As you interact with this material, I hope you will experience the freedom to live in God's story of grace with deeper faith, greater hope, and more passionate love. The format is designed to take you into the grand narrative of Scripture, your story, and others' stories by giving you opportunities to pray about and live what you are studying. The following sections will help you go deeper:

**Engaging Scripture.** Here you will focus on a passage or story from Scripture and answer questions for insight, reflection, and discussion. This draws us to worship God and follow Christ.

**Theological Theme.** This section discusses a theme that God consistently reveals through Scripture.

**Entering Your Story.** This section takes the passage and shifts the focus to what God is writing in your story. Here you will be given opportunities to write and tell your story.

**Living Story.** This section invites you to reflect on how you will live out the gospel in the topic being explored.

**Praying Story.** The final section offers an opportunity to write or say prayers regarding the story.

Here are a few suggestions to help you get the most out of the Bible study:

*Just do it!* As a former stoic, I used to embrace this Nike slogan, but it didn't always lead to love. While I don't want you to fall into the trap of doing duty, I do want you to engage the material. If the only thing you can do is to read the Scripture,



make sure you do that. The Bible is the living Word of God. Unlike any self-help book, just reading it transforms you! But please, do more.

*Interact with the questions.* The studies are divided into suggested amounts of material to cover over a five-day period. This gives you two extra days! Use the space in the book, or if you need more room, get a journal or create a document on your computer for walking through this guide. Let the questions wander around in your brain as you commute to work or clean the kitchen, and then write some things down. You may think you don't need to write anything down, but trust me (or at least trust cognition theorists)—we learn, understand, and grow as we write.

*Pray.* Ask the Holy Spirit, whom God has given as “the Helper” to come alongside you (John 14:26), to be your primary guide in the process of learning and living story. Specific exercises for prayer are provided in each chapter.

*Tell and listen.* Each individual reflects God's story of grace in a unique way. Gift others by sharing your responses and your story. If you tend to be more talkative, make room for the quieter ones to speak. Always listen carefully to others.

*Enjoy.* We were made to worship, to give and receive delight in God's story of grace. My deepest hope is that you will enjoy being transformed by the gospel, the amazing true story in which we are called to live and love.

May God richly bless us all as we learn the narrative of life and love in Jesus Christ, which God is telling everywhere, all the time!



# 1

## FAITH AND HOPE DEFINED

*Surrendering in Trust and  
Seeing the Unseen*

### KEY THEMES

- ✿ God generously gifts us with faith and hope.
- ✿ Faith and hope rest on unseen spiritual realities, not present earthly realities.
- ✿ Faith and hope are nurtured and flourish in community.

### DAY 1

*Screeching*—the word that best describes the timbre of my voice. A far cry from the soft tone of a woman presumably calmed by faith, encouraged by hope. My husband winced at the punctuation of each of my loud exclamations (though I notice this only in the mental replay of the ugly scene). Finally, my

anger fizzled like the last gasp of air leaving a balloon: “I’ve lost all hope that this shoulder will ever get better.” Tears welled. “I will *always* live in this pain.”

This scene occurred near the end of the eighth month of my recovery from rotator cuff surgery, a day when pain and frustration eroded almost all semblance of gospel sanity. It felt perversely good to give up on hope; it also felt horrible.

Thankfully, two primary characters in the story had not given up hope. My husband (an orthopedic surgeon) and my physical therapist faithed me and hoped me. It was as if they could see inside my shoulder and describe the unseen to me. Because of past cases similar to mine, they could believe for me that relief would come with a little more time and continued strengthening. They believed the reality that is the essence of hope: “This will make a really good story one day.”

Though this unsightly kitchen-table drama centers on earthly hope—that my pain would subside in this life—it reveals some important realities about spiritual faith and hope:

- ✿ Faith and hope are gifts from God that rely not on our goodness but on his rich mercy and grace.
- ✿ Faith and hope rest not on circumstances in this life but on unseen and certain spiritual realities about the story of grace that God has written and is writing.
- ✿ Faith and hope are lived in community. God uses his Word and other people to remind us of past rescue and to direct us toward our future hope—the day when true shalom will be restored forever and ever.

---

Living between the two comings of Christ, Christians are to look backward and forward: back to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb, whereby salvation was won for them; forward to their meeting with Christ beyond this world, their personal resurrection, and the joy of being with their Savior in glory forever.

—J. I. Packer, *Concise Theology*

In this chapter, we explore the themes of faith and hope through several Scriptures and stories. Join me as we step into the varying terrain of unseen reality.

## ENGAGING SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS; 1 PETER; ROMANS; 2 CORINTHIANS

### Background

*Genre.* Epistle. Epistles are letters written to early Christians to help them live the Christian story in context of their current circumstances.

*Context.* Hebrews: Hebrews differs from other epistles because it is written in the form of a sermon. The author (uncertain; Paul, Clement, Luke, and Apollos have been suggested) writes to Jewish Christians enduring trials. He encourages them to cling to their faith because their faith is in Jesus Christ, the superior Priest who is their Savior.

1 Peter: The apostle Peter writes to suffering Christians to encourage them to persevere in faith and hope because God is rescuing and redeeming now and for eternity.

Romans: The apostle Paul writes to the Romans to teach them about God's gift of righteousness in Christ.

2 Corinthians: The apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians, defending his life and ministry. Some opponents had argued that Paul's suffering meant that he couldn't be a Spirit-filled apostle of Christ. Paul responds that God uses suffering to reveal his glory and power.

1. Faith and hope are central themes in these epistles that focus on trials and suffering. Why do you think this is the case? How do trials affect your faith and hope?

## **What Are Faith and Hope?**

2. John Calvin says, “True faith always goes hand in hand with hope.” Read the following verses and describe the relationship between faith and hope.

a. 1 Peter 1:21

b. Hebrews 6:11-12

c. 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Faith in Jesus Christ is what saves us. Hope sustains perseverance in faith. One definition of faith and hope can be found in Hebrews 11:1-3.

3. Read Hebrews 11:1. Two balanced parts tell us what faith is.

- a. Look up Hebrews 11:1 in the New International Version (NIV) and the English Standard Version (ESV). (If necessary, you can find different translations at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) to do this.) Fill in the blanks with the words that complete each part.

NIV:

Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

ESV:

Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- b. It seems paradoxical (opposite of what seems true) to say that faith is certainty of something that we haven't seen yet. How would you answer someone who pointed out this paradox?

## FAITH AND HOPE DEFINED

The Spirit of God shows us hidden things, the knowledge of which cannot reach our senses. . . . We are told of the resurrection of the blessed, but meantime we are involved in corruption; we are declared to be just, and sin dwells within us; we hear that we are blessed, but meantime we are overwhelmed by untold miseries; we are promised an abundance of good things, but we are often hungry and thirsty; God proclaims that He will come to us immediately, but seems to be deaf to our cries. What would happen to us if we did not rely on our hope, and if our minds did not emerge above the world out of the midst of darkness through the shining Word of God and by His Spirit? Faith is rightly called the substance of things which are still the objects of hope and the evidence of things not seen.

—John Calvin, *Hebrews*

---

### 4. Read Hebrews 11:3.

a. What does faith help us to understand and see?

b. Why is this important?

✿ Choose a verse to memorize. Write it here and tell why you chose it.



## DAY 2

### WHERE AND WHEN DO FAITH AND HOPE OPERATE'

From Hebrews 11:1-3, we learn that faith happens when things are hoped for but not yet possessed. Faith is indefinable without hope, its future component. Let's look at the time and space in which faith and hope do their work.

1. Read Romans 15:4.
  - a. What does it tell us about the purpose of Scripture?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Tell of a time when you received encouragement and the ability to endure from something "written in the past."

As we learned in *Learning God's Story of Grace*, we live in the era between Christ's redemption of the cosmos through his life, death, and resurrection (the "already") and the day when Christ will return to complete the work begun (the "not yet").

## WHAT RESULTS DO FAITH AND HOPE BRING?

2. In 2 Corinthians 4, we find several instructive verses about faith and hope.
  - a. 4:6: What knowledge does faith give us?
  - b. 4:13-15: What do we believe and speak as a result of faith, and why?
  - c. 4:16-17: You may have heard the expression, "When you see a *therefore* in Scripture, you should always look at the preceding verses to see what it's 'there' 'for.'"

Consider 4:6-15. What essential truths give us reason for not losing heart and for continuing to hope?

d. 4:18: How do we live the life of faith and hope?

- ⊗ Review your memory verse by posting it on social media or writing it in a note or an e-mail.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul demonstrates that faith focuses on the finished work of Christ and that hope focuses on the future return of Christ to sustain us in present sufferings. Now let's see what faith and hope lived look like.

---

True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in His word is true; it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only for others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation. (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 21)

—Kevin DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot*

## DAY 3

### WHAT DO FAITH AND HOPE LOOK LIKE?

After the introductory definition of faith and hope in Hebrews 11, the author presents a list of Old Testament characters, real people, who lived it. In *The Message* paraphrase, each new character is introduced by the phrase “By an act of faith . . .” in order to emphasize that faith and hope must be lived to be real. We’ll look at two examples here and enter into Abraham and Sarah’s story more deeply in the coming chapters.

1. Read Hebrews 11:4-5.
  - a. Why was Abel’s sacrifice better than Cain’s? What commendation did his faith “earn” him?
  - b. What do these verses tell you about a person living a life of faith?

- c. Think about it. Would you prefer that God have a system of rewards based on works? In what way might that system be easier than the free gift of forgiveness?

2. Read Hebrews 11:7.

- a. What does Noah's life tell us about faithful living?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What acts of faith have you done that may have seemed foolish in the eyes of those who cannot see the unseen?

## WHERE DO THEY ORIGINATE?

3. Read Hebrews 6:13-14. What does it teach about the origins of faith?

### DAY 4

## ENTERING YOUR STORY

We've seen what Scripture says about faith and hope; we've explored the stories of several Old Testament characters to see it lived. Let's now study God's story of grace in our lives to sharpen our eyesight for the unseen. Listen to one woman's story of faith, hope, and community:

My friend Heather, a missionary in Peru, was struggling with homesickness and weariness. She and her husband thought a trip back to Texas would offer just the renewed vision and energy she needed. Less than two weeks before her planned departure, she received heartbreaking news: the eighteen-month-old son of their former associate pastor and wife had nearly drowned:

"For the next ten days we were given daily updates by phone regarding Knox's condition. We prayed and prayed that God would give Knox back life. The tenth day after the accident, Knox died.

"God had just put our friends on the most difficult path I could ever imagine. Losing a child, to me, was the hardest thing, the worst thing, that anybody would ever experience."

Heather made her trip home, but the focus of her trip had changed—she would go to support and encourage her friends:

“The service was awful and amazing. Who ever wants to be at a child’s funeral? But our pastors, including Knox’s father, spoke truth and comfort boldly, honestly, and with a rawness that could come only from the brokenness of grief. I left stunned and devastated.”

### Theological Theme: Regeneration

*Regeneration* comes from two Latin roots: *re-*, meaning “again,” and *gen-*, meaning “create.” In *Learning God’s Story of Grace*, we learned about how shalom (the peace, harmony, and dignity with which God created the world) was spoiled by the fall. The image of God in humankind was disfigured and distorted in such a way that we no longer fully reflect the glory of God as we once did.

Those who have faith have experienced regeneration, being “born again.” In John 3:1–5, the knowledgeable religious leader Nicodemus earnestly questions Jesus about this new way of life he teaches. Jesus teaches him that this radical kingdom-life is for those who are “born again.” The Spirit, he says, gives birth to new life. Nicodemus is understandably confused about the process.

Nicodemus, like us, must understand that because we are dead in sin, we need a new heart in order to repent of (turn away from) our sin and believe in God. The Holy Spirit generates this new heart and, with it, gives us the power to believe. Thankfully, our faith and hope come from the One who has the power to sustain it—if it were up to us, we would flounder.

God regenerates hearts in order that we might live holy lives and love the broken world. With the newborn eyes of faith and hope, we envision redemption in the most shattered of places, laboring in the Spirit’s power to re-create beauty and draw others to know the Savior. (Related verse: 2 Cor. 3:18. See also Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10.)

Heather writes about the community's struggle in the days following the funeral:

"The feelings of grief, guilt, brokenness, doubt all hovered around the hearts and minds of the congregation. Faith was shaken—how could God allow this? The usual comfort of 'God will use this for good' seemed hollow in the aftermath of such tragedy. We didn't want God to use it for good—we wanted it to not have happened at all. I was heavy with the weight of a churchload of grief."

Several days after the funeral, Heather was invited to visit Knox's mother.

"What she said to me that day was the beginning of a complete paradigm shift in how I viewed suffering and faith.

"You know, I'm not the first mother to lose a child and I won't be the last. A hundred years ago, this happened all the time. This could happen to anyone. People ask me if I'm mad at God, and yes, I am. But where else can I go—to whom else can I turn? There isn't anywhere else."

"I was astounded by my friend's faith—the faith of the Psalm 88 writer who ended his lament with 'darkness is my closest friend.' The faith that knows words of life given in Scripture invite wrestling. The faith that knows God may ask anybody to walk the hardest path. But God! The faith that knows there is nowhere else to turn but to the sovereign God who took their precious son. The faith that believes the Father knows the depth of their heartache."

Heather's story and Knox's mother's story are ones of rich faith and deep hope. Suffering is not eliminated. Surrender comes only through wrestling.

Now it's your turn to reflect on God's work of faith and hope in your life. Choose one of the following topics to reflect on your story.

---

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

—Psalm 139:7



1. Some people recall a precise time of being “born from above”; for others, it was a gradual experience that happened over time or happened when they were very young.
  - a. Do you remember when you “came to faith,” you suddenly believed, you were “born again,” or something about your belief was secured in a new way? Tell that story.

## FAITH AND HOPE DEFINED

- b. What new understanding did you have? What changes did you desire to make in your life? How did you see the Holy Spirit operating?
2. Have you ever had an experience like Heather's—of faith and hope growing as a result of a tragedy? Tell that story.

a. What happened to challenge your faith and hope?

b. What new revelations about God's character did you gain?

✿ Review your memory verse.

## DAY 5

### LIVING STORY

1. "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (Gal. 5:6). As we have seen, faith and hope do not exist in the abstract; only lived do they become reality.
  - a. As a group or as individuals, pray about an act of service that you might want to do together as an expression of faith and hope. It might be something that you've been afraid to risk or have never imagined

yourself doing. It might be a service performed by one of your group members that others would like to try. (Examples: serving in soup kitchens or on the streets; buying a meal for a homeless person and sitting with her while she eats it . . .)

- b. Choose a time to do this act of faith as a group or as individuals.

## PRAYING STORY

Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we bow before you, so very grateful that you regenerated our stilled and spoiled hearts. Knowing that we are impotent to re-create ourselves, you poured your Spirit into us and birthed us again to bring glory to you. You know our hearts of unbelief; we entreat you to grow faith and hope in us. When we look at shattered shalom and see only earthly escape routes that result in dead-ends, enlarge our vision with your heavenly eyesight. When shaken, we cling to frail idols that appear strong; draw us again to cleave to you, who have never let us go. By you and through you and to you be all the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Moving Forward

Living faith and hope might be compared to viewing a mountain from a distance, and then hiking along a trail leading to its summit. Along the way, we struggle at steep ascents, but we will also step easily along smooth segments. God has placed in our hearts the assurance that Christ came to renew our sinful hearts and to restore broken shalom; he has given us clear views of the certain consummation at Christ's return. As we study the stories of real people in Scripture and our own lives, we learn some of the contours of faith and hope. Let's continue by looking at Abraham's story and the call of faith to let go and look forward.

# Are you living God's story, or just reading it?



We know that God's grand narrative encompasses everything and everyone and that our own individual stories have a place in it. We *believe*, but often we have a hard time *living* our place in this great story. Though we know God is at work bringing us redemption and peace, we often doubt that he will truly rescue or comfort us in our day-to-day struggles.

When this happens, when we live in fear rather than faithfulness, we try to take matters into our own hands and bring about the endings to our stories that we want. So what do we do when we start trusting and waiting in our own faithfulness instead of God's?

This encouraging, vital study of the redemption stories in Scripture helps us to reflect on the stories in our own lives and surrender our trust back to the One to whom it belongs. Each chapter focuses on a Scripture passage and is broken into four main sections to aid your individual study and encourage rich group conversation.

If you have already learned God's story of grace, find out what it means to *live* in his story in faith and hope.

"Anchored in the text of the Scriptures, singing with the beauty of grace, Elizabeth's book helps us find our place in God's big story."

—**Scotty Smith**, Pastor for Preaching, Teaching, and Worship, Christ Community Church

"An amazing look at who God is and who that makes you . . . [and] an opportunity to . . . be awed, moved, and changed forever."

—**Nancy Puryear**, Women's Ministry Director, Christ Community Church

"Elizabeth Turnage understands the power of story, the power of God and Scripture, the power of prayer, and the power of shared stories in community."

—**Daniel Taylor**, Professor of English, Bethel University

Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage is the founder of Living Story LLC and Redeemed Hearts Ministry. She shares her deep passion for God's story of grace through conferences, curriculum-writing, and coaching.

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