

The Character Project

It's Not a Straight Line

March 28, 2021

What was a hobby or interest you obsessed about as a kid?

What was the general impression you had about the Bible growing up?

What if the main characters of Scripture aren't the good guys?

What do the stories in Genesis teach us about the nature of humanity?

What if God is the protagonist of the Story?

Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers

God's faithfulness to a complicated family should give hope to us all.

Glorification
Sanctification
Justification

Promised Land
The Wilderness
Egypt

What if the journey isn't always up and to the right?

What does it look like to finish well?

"Isn't it a consolation to know that life is not a straight line? Many of us wish and have been told that it should be, but I haven't met a life yet that's a straight line to God. And I have even met Mother Teresa! It's always getting the point and missing the point. It's God entering our lives and then fighting it, avoiding it, running from it. There is the moment of divine communion or intimacy, and then the pullback that says, "That's too good to be true. I must be making it up." Fortunately, God works with all of it, and that's called mercy or steadfast love."- Richard Rohr

What kept Samson, David, and Solomon from finishing well?

Who are you closest to in your life? When you look at who they are, what does that say about you? How are they shaping you? How are you shaping them?

What kind of life are your daily habits, routines, and patterns building over the long haul? If you keep these up for the next decade, what will your life look like?

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart." Heb. 12:1-3

How do you deal with your anger, shame, and grief?

Resources: *The Road to Character* by David Brooks

Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page. You can schedule from there.

Therapist or Spiritual Director?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will get you the contact of the therapists and directors we recommend.