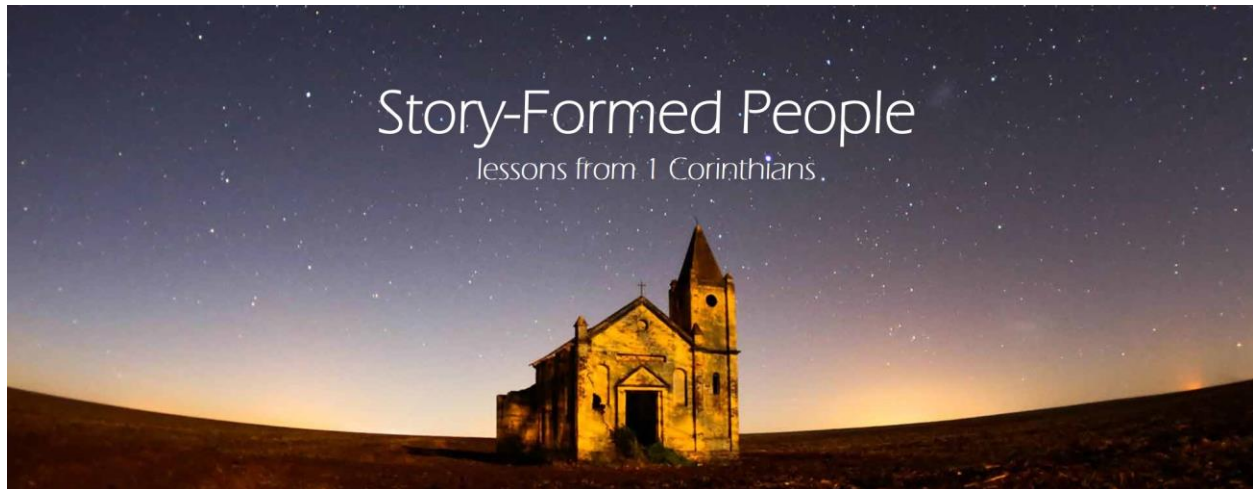


Week One: Introduction



Take 20 minutes to consider the following:

N. T. Wright has compared the biblical story to an unfinished five-act Shakespearean play. In this analogy, the Christian life is the attempt to live out the fifth act. He writes: “Among the detailed moves available within this model... is the possibility of seeing the five acts as follows: 1) Creation; 2) Fall; 3) Israel; 4) Jesus. The New Testament would then form the first scene in the fifth act, giving hints of how the play is supposed to end. The church would then live under the authority of the story, being required to offer something between an improvisation and an actual performance of the final act.”

- Which of these parts of this story do you know well?
- Which parts not so well?
- How might this five-act story inform how you live in this cultural moment?
- What does it mean to be story-formed people?