

## How to do *The Story* in 16 Weeks

### 16 weeks or 31 weeks?

*For some churches, a 16-week campaign is a better fit with their calendar than a 31-week campaign. If your church cannot devote an entire 31 weeks to *The Story*, consider going through it in 16 weeks instead.*

### The whole church does the odd-numbered chapters...

If you choose this 16-week option, you can ask your people to read two chapters a week, but focus the sermons and the age-related ministries (children's Sunday school, youth meetings, and adult Sunday school) on all of the odd-numbered chapters for their weekend teaching. The odd-numbered chapters include key chapters such as Chapter 1 and 31, the beginning and the end of time, and Chapter 27, the resurrection. Consistently teaching the odd-numbered chapters is a simple way to ensure that all of your classes and weekend messages align without overloading your teachers with two weeks of material to cover in one lesson.

### ...Or not

You may look over the odd-numbered chapters and decide occasionally to have your ministries do the even-numbered chapter here and there (for instance, you may want to do Jesus' birth, Chapter 22, instead of the rebuilding of the walls, Chapter 21), but just make sure that all of your ministries know clearly ahead of time which chapters they will be teaching each week.

### Groups that meet twice a week

One advantage of this plan is that groups that meet more than once a week (such as youth groups or children's clubs or adult Bible studies) have the even-numbered chapters available to teach during their second meeting.

### Go year-round

We encourage you to consider starting off *The Story* as a church-wide spiritual growth emphasis, teaching through it in the sermons and in all the age-related ministries and small groups, then continue *The Story* as just a small group option that is offered year-round, for the benefit of people who join your church later or who want to go through the whole Bible regularly.

### A 16-Week Curriculum is posted to the Bulletin Board

A 16-week adult small group curriculum with personal devotions and family guides, developed by Church @ The Springs in Ocala, Florida, is posted to the Bulletin Board in the Online Resource Library, should you wish to make use of it as the basis of your 16-week program.