

THE WHOLE Story⁺

The Bible in a Year

Upstate Church, welcome to our journey through the Word of God. Our goal is simple. We want to encourage as many people in our church as possible to read through the entire Bible in a year. We want to encourage people to engage with the Bible because, as a church, we believe that no other Christian discipline has the potential to impact our spiritual walk, like daily Bible reading.

The Reading Plan

This resource is one of the multiple guides that will be available to you throughout the year. Each resource will include weekly sermon introductions for the Sunday morning service at Upstate Church. Between each sermon introduction, there will be a week's worth of daily readings.

The daily readings are dated, include selections from the Old and New Testaments, and are for each weekday. This format will take you through the whole Bible in a year, with readings five days per week and two days open for catching up or getting ahead.

The Format

We not only want to encourage you to read the Bible, we want to teach you how to read the Bible. To help Upstate Church members learn to read the Bible, we use the HEAR Journal method in each of the daily readings. Each day, you will see the HEAR acrostic going down the page. The HEAR journal guides your reading and helps you interact with the text.

H – H stands for HIGHLIGHT. As you read through the text, note or highlight something that stands out to you. Don't just read the Word. Interact with it. Ask questions about it. Highlight what stands out. Highlighting is about determining what the Bible says.

E – E stands for explain. In your own words, seek to explain what you highlighted. It may take some investigation if the passage is a little ambiguous. You may need to look at the notes in your study Bible or consult a good commentary if you need to clarify something. Most of the time, you will know precisely what the highlight means, but explaining it in your own words helps you internalize God's message. Explanation is about determining what the Bible means.

A – A stands for apply. After interacting with the Word and understanding it, you need to determine how it applies to your life. Reading the Bible is about more than gaining information. Reading the Bible is about transformation, which comes from beholding the Lord and hearing from Him. Application is about determining what the Bible means for me.

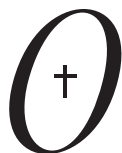
R – R stands for respond. Encountering God in the Bible does not stop when we determine what the Bible says, what the Bible means, or what the Bible means to me. We have not encountered God through the Word until we respond to God accordingly. We respond to God in prayer according to what He reveals to us in the Word. We respond to God in prayer with praise for who He is, confess where we have failed, and repent as we return to God!

The Challenge

We go to the Bible to hear from God. The challenge before our church this year is to learn to go to the Bible to hear from God again and again. Will you embrace this challenge in 2025? Will you read the Bible with us? Will you go to the Word again and again? Will you do all you can to hear from God this year? We cannot wait to see how God works as we run toward His Word.

WEEK 44

THE WHOLE Story



Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 28:18-20

And He does not send them out alone—He sends them with His power, His presence, and His promise: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” In these words, we hear the heartbeat of our mission and the foundation of our hope. The Great Commission is not just a church strategy—it is the church’s identity. We are a people sent, empowered, and sustained by the Lord of all. This passage is not the end of Matthew’s Gospel—it is the beginning of ours.

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October 27, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 7-9; John 3

H

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October 28, 2024

Read: Ezekiel 10-12; Psalm 83; John 4

H

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A

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October 29, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 13-15; Psalm 136; John 5

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October 30, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 16-18; John 6

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October 31, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 19-21; Psalm 84; John 7

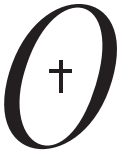
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Acts 2:42-47

The same gospel that pierced hearts in verse 37 now knits hearts together in verse 42. And the effect is undeniable: needs are met, lives are changed, and the Lord adds to their number daily those who are being saved. This is what it looks like when Jesus builds His church—a people captivated by truth, shaped by grace, and committed to one another in sacrificial love.

Acts 2:42–47 reminds us that the church is not merely an event to attend but a family to belong to, a mission to embrace, and a foretaste of the kingdom of God breaking into the world. The question before us is not whether this kind of community is possible—it is whether we're willing to be devoted the way they were. Because when God's people are gripped by God's Word and filled with God's Spirit, the world takes notice.

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November 3, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 22-24; Psalm 134; John 8

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November 4, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 25-27; Psalm 85; John 9

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November 5, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 28-30; John 10

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November 6, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 31-33; John 11

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November 7, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 34-36; Psalm 86; John 12

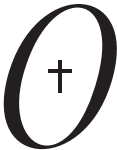
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Acts 8

If Acts 2 is the spark that ignites the fire of the gospel, Acts 8 is the moment the fire begins to spread beyond its expected boundaries. Up until now, the church in Jerusalem had experienced growth, community, and boldness—but it had also stayed home. That changes in Acts 8. What seems at first like a tragedy—the violent persecution of the church following Stephen’s martyrdom—becomes the very means by which God propels His people into the mission He had already spoken: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The gospel will not be contained. It will not be domesticated. It will go where we least expect it—into Samaria, through the preaching of Philip, and into the chariot of an Ethiopian official seeking answers on a desert road.

Acts 8 is a reminder that the advance of the gospel is not always neat, but it is always sovereign. God uses brokenness, scattering, and unlikely messengers to accomplish His global plan. Through Philip, a faithful deacon turned evangelist, we see a gospel that crosses cultural, racial, and geographic lines. We see a God who pursues the seeker, sends His Spirit, and draws people to Jesus through His Word. And we see a church learning—sometimes painfully, always providentially—that God’s kingdom is bigger than their comfort zones.

Acts 8 challenges us to believe that there is no one too far, no place too remote, and no moment too random for the saving grace of God to break in. The gospel is not stationary—it is on the move. The only question is: are we willing to go where it leads?

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November 10, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 37-39; Psalm 87; John 13

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November 11, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 40-42; John 14

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November 12, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 43-45; Psalm 135; John 15

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November 13, 2025

Read: Ezekiel 46-48; John 16

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November 14, 2025

Read: Daniel 1-3; Psalm 88; John 17

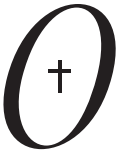
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Romans 1:16-32

And yet, beginning in verse 18, Paul doesn't ease us into grace—he drags us through the darkness of wrath. Why? Because until we grasp the severity of humanity's fall, we'll never treasure the beauty of God's mercy. Romans 1:18–32 is a sobering revelation of what happens when a society suppresses the truth of God and exchanges His glory for created things. It is not a hypothetical—it is a historical reality and a present danger.

Romans 1 isn't here to make us comfortable—it's here to make us desperate. Because only when we feel the weight of our need will we run to the cross for rescue. This is not a passage for finger-pointing—it is a mirror for all of us. And the good news is that the power of the gospel Paul refuses to be ashamed of is still mighty to save—even now, even here, even us.

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November 17, 2025

Read: Daniel 4-6; John 18

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November 18, 2025

Read: Daniel 7-9; Psalm 91; John 19

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November 19, 2025

Read: Daniel 10-12; John 20

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November 20, 2025

Read: Ezra 1-2; John 21

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November 21, 2025

Read: Ezra 3-4; Psalm 92; 1 John 1

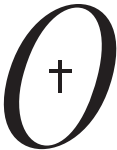
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Romans 8:1-4

Romans 8 is often called the greatest chapter in the Bible because it begins with “no condemnation” and ends with “no separation.” But the beauty of that opening declaration is best understood in the shadow of what came before. In chapter 7, Paul wrestled with the frustration of sin—the divided heart, the lingering flesh, the inability to do the good he desires. He cried out, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” And now, in chapter 8, he gives the answer: deliverance has come through Jesus. Not by trying harder, but by trusting deeper. Not by the law, but by the Spirit.

In verses 1–4, Paul reveals the heart of the gospel: Jesus did what the law could never do. He condemned sin in the flesh so that we could be set free from its power. The cross doesn't just forgive us—it liberates us. And for all who are in Christ, the verdict is already in. The gavel has fallen. The sentence has been served. And the condemnation we deserve has been swallowed up by the righteousness He gives. This is not just doctrine to be understood—it is truth to be lived. Because when you know you're no longer condemned, you begin to live like you're truly free.

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November 24, 2025

Read: Haggai; Zechariah 1; Psalm 138; 1 John 2

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November 25, 2025

Read: Zechariah 2-5; Psalm 93; 1 John 3

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November 26, 2025

Read: Zechariah 6-8; 1 John 4

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November 27, 2025

Read: Zechariah 9-11; 1 John 5

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November 28, 2025

Read: Zechariah 12-14; Psalm 94; 2 John

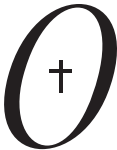
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November 30, 2025

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

In a world obsessed with charisma, credentials, and clever communication, the apostle Paul stands before the church in Corinth and reminds them—and us—of what truly changes lives. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul pulls back the curtain on his ministry and reveals a startling truth: he did not come with lofty speech or impressive wisdom. He did not rely on rhetorical flair or persuasive technique. Instead, he came in weakness, fear, and trembling, determined to know nothing among them except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Why? Because Paul knew that the power of the gospel is not found in the presentation but in the Person. It is not eloquence that saves—it is the cross. It is not intellectual mastery that transforms—it is the Spirit's power.

In a culture like Corinth—addicted to status, enamored by Greek philosophy, and eager to follow the most polished speaker—Paul’s message was radically countercultural. And in ours, it still is. These verses confront every temptation to trust in style over substance, method over message, man over Messiah. Paul’s preaching was not about showcasing himself but about magnifying Christ. And his goal was simple: that our faith might not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

This passage calls every preacher, every witness, every Christian back to the center—to the scandalous, saving, supernatural power of the cross. It reminds us that what people need most is not our polish, but God's power; not our performance, but His presence. In a world looking for something impressive, God offers something better: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, proclaimed in humble dependence on the Spirit—and that is enough.

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December 1, 2025

Read: Ezra 5-6; Psalm 95; 3 John

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December 2, 2025

Read: Esther 1-3; Psalm 139; Revelation 1

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December 3, 2025
Read: Esther 4-6; Revelation 2

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December 4, 2025

Read: Esther 7-10; Revelation 3

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December 5, 2025

Read: Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97; Revelation 4

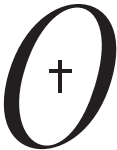
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Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus is not just a good teacher, a moral example, or a religious figure. He is the visible revelation of the invisible God. He existed before time, stands above creation, and holds the galaxies together by the word of His power. But even more than that—He is the head of the church, the firstborn from the dead, and the One in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. And by His cross, He has made peace. Peace between sinners and a holy God. Peace between heaven and earth. This passage reminds us that the Jesus we worship is not small, local, or tame—He is Lord of all. Every molecule in the universe bows to His authority. Every corner of creation exists for His glory. And the staggering mystery of the gospel is this: the One who made all things also came to reconcile all things.

Colossians 1:15-20 is not just a hymn of praise—it is a call to reorient everything in our lives around the supremacy of Christ. Because if He truly is before all things and in Him all things hold together, then there is no part of our lives, our churches, or our world that He does not rightfully claim as His own.

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December 8, 2025

Read: Nehemiah 1-3; Revelation 5

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December 9, 2025

Read: Nehemiah 4-6; Psalm 98; Revelation 6

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December 10, 2025

Read: Nehemiah 7-9; Psalm 140; Revelation 7

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December 11, 2025

Read: Nehemiah 10-13; Revelation 8

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December 12, 2025

Read: Malachi; Psalm 2; Revelation 9

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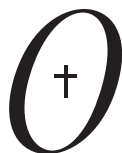
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WEEK 51

THE WHOLE Story+



December 14, 2025

1 Peter 2

In a world obsessed with identity—where people are constantly asking “Who am I?” and “Where do I belong?”—Peter reminds us of something far more enduring than personal achievement, cultural status, or fleeting approval. Writing to believers scattered across the Roman Empire, many of them marginalized and pressured by a hostile society, Peter lifts their eyes to the eternal reality of who they are in Christ. He says you are not defined by your past sins, your present struggles, or your worldly labels. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession.

But before Peter reminds us of this glorious identity, he calls us to lay aside the things that distort and poison the church—malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Because to belong to Christ is not only to receive a new identity, but also to walk in a new way of life.

This passage invites us to consider what it means to be built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, to be shaped into a spiritual house for God's glory, and to live as His people in a watching world.

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December 15, 2025

Read: Job 1-3; Psalm 29; Revelation 10

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December 16, 2025

Read: Job 4-7; Psalm 99; Revelation 11

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December 17, 2025

Read: Job 8-11; Revelation 12

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December 18, 2025

Read: Job 12-14; Psalm 100; Revelation 13

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December 19, 2025

Read: Job 15-17; Revelation 14

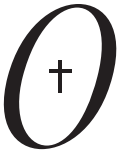
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December 21, 2025

1 John 5

In a world obsessed with identity—where people chase meaning through careers, affiliations, ideologies, and self-expression—Peter reminds us where true identity is found: in Christ, and in Christ alone. In 1 Peter 2:1-10, we are invited to step into a new reality—not just a new way of living, but a new way of being. This passage calls believers to put off the old ways of malice, deceit, and hypocrisy, and to long for the pure spiritual milk that causes us to grow up into salvation.

But Peter doesn't just call us to holiness—he anchors us in hope. He tells us who we are by showing us who Christ is. Jesus is the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen and precious in the sight of God. And those who come to Him are not just forgiven—they are built into something eternal. We are living stones, being formed into a spiritual house. We are a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession. These are not metaphors to admire—they are identities to embody. Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy. This is grace that redefines us. This is the gospel that gives us both foundation and mission.

Peter is writing to exiles—scattered, pressured, and misunderstood—but he is reminding them that they are not forgotten. They are not accidental. They are not who the world says they are. They are who God says they are: chosen, holy, and His. And that truth changes everything. When we know who we are in Christ, we begin to live like we belong to Him.

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December 22, 2025

Read: Job 18-20; Psalm 141; Revelation 15

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December 23, 2025

Read: Job 21-23; Psalm 101; Revelation 16

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December 24, 2025

Read: Job 24-27; Revelation 17

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December 25, 2025

Read: Job 28-30; Revelation 18

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December 26, 2025

Read: Job 31-33; Psalm 102; Revelation 19

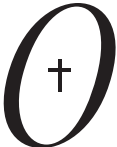
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December 28, 2025

Scripture: _____

The Bottom Line

December 29, 2025

Read: Job 34-36; Revelation 20

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December 30, 2025

Read: Job 37-39; Psalm 103; Revelation 21

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December 31, 2025

Read: Job 40-42; Psalm 150; Revelation 22

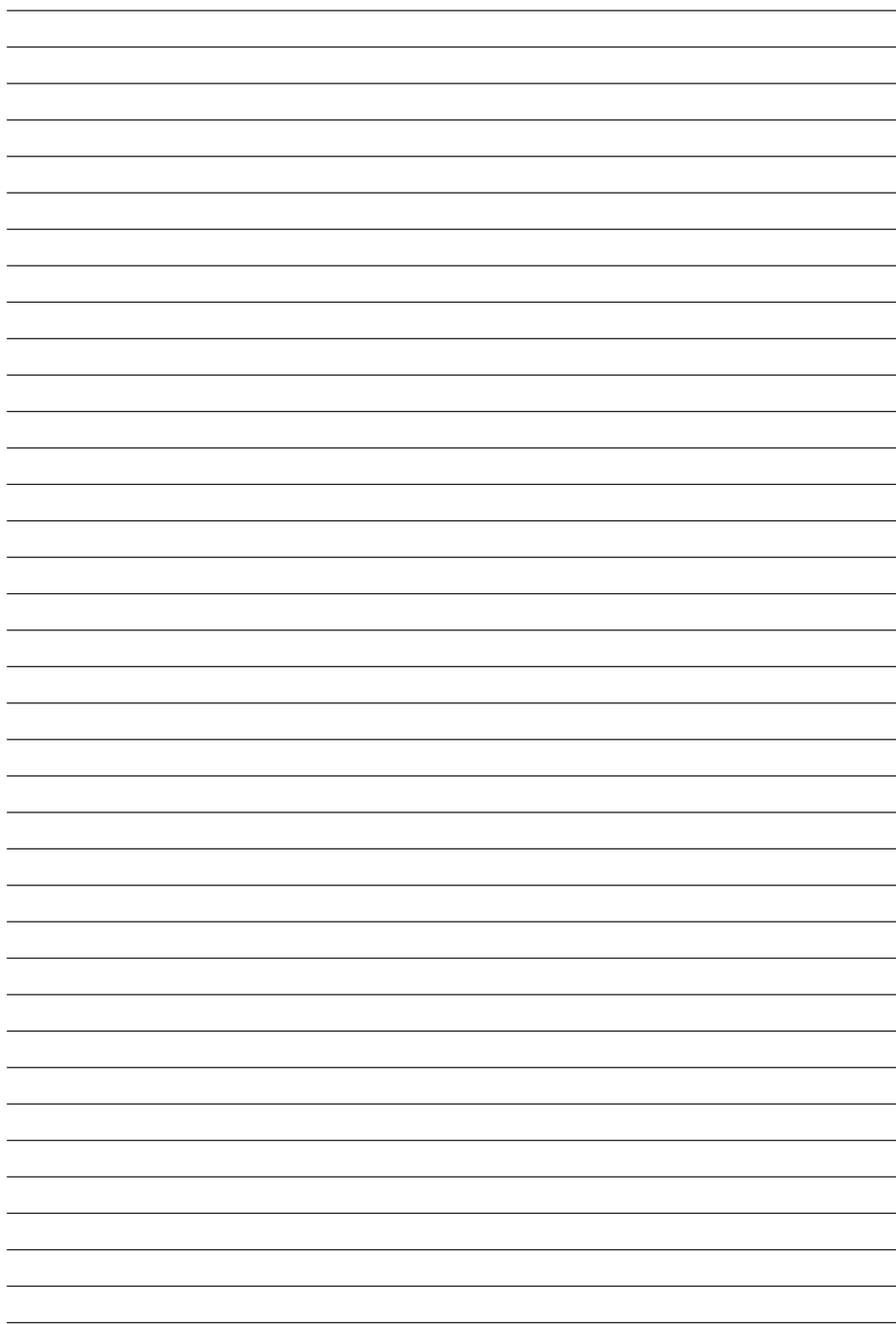
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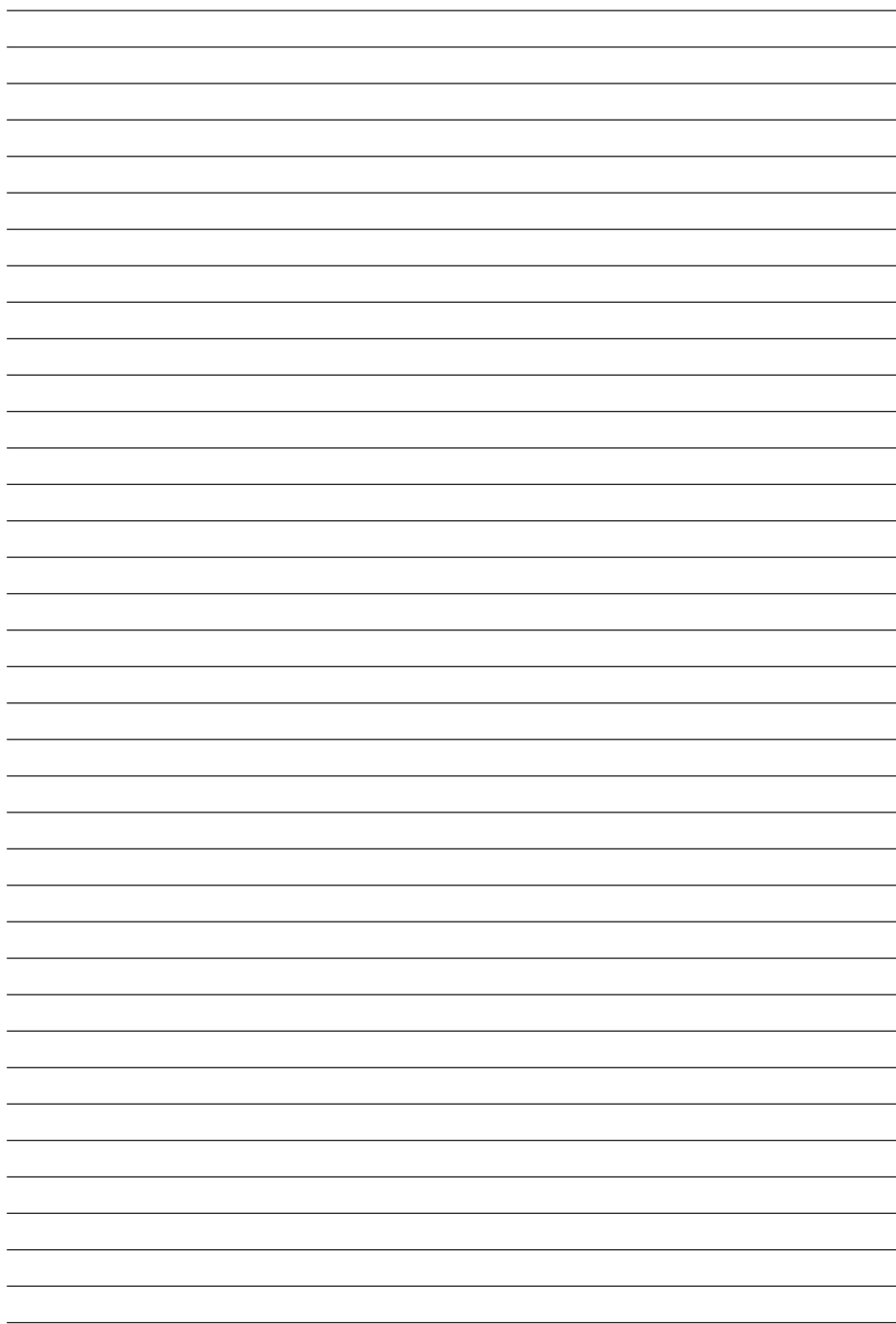
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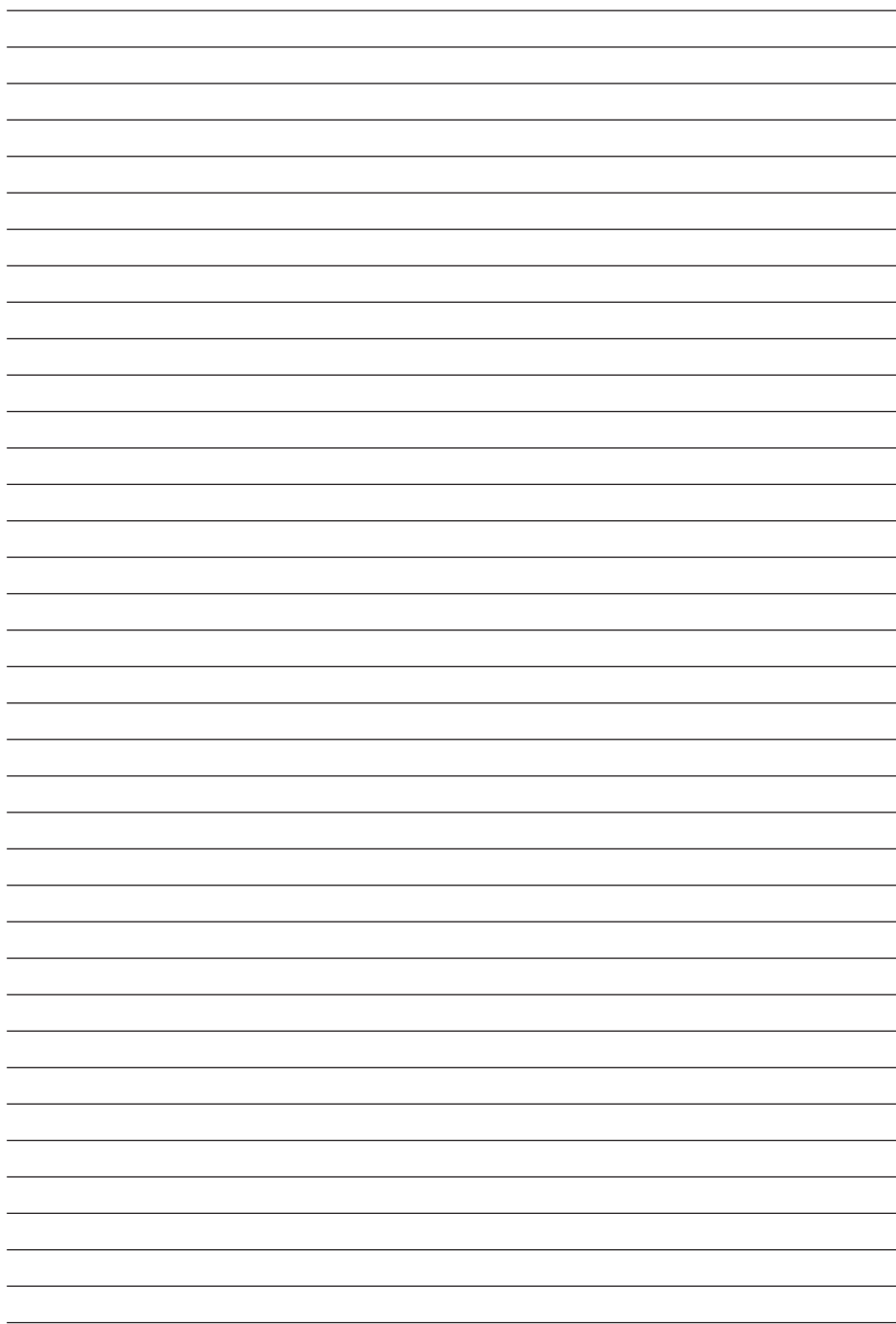




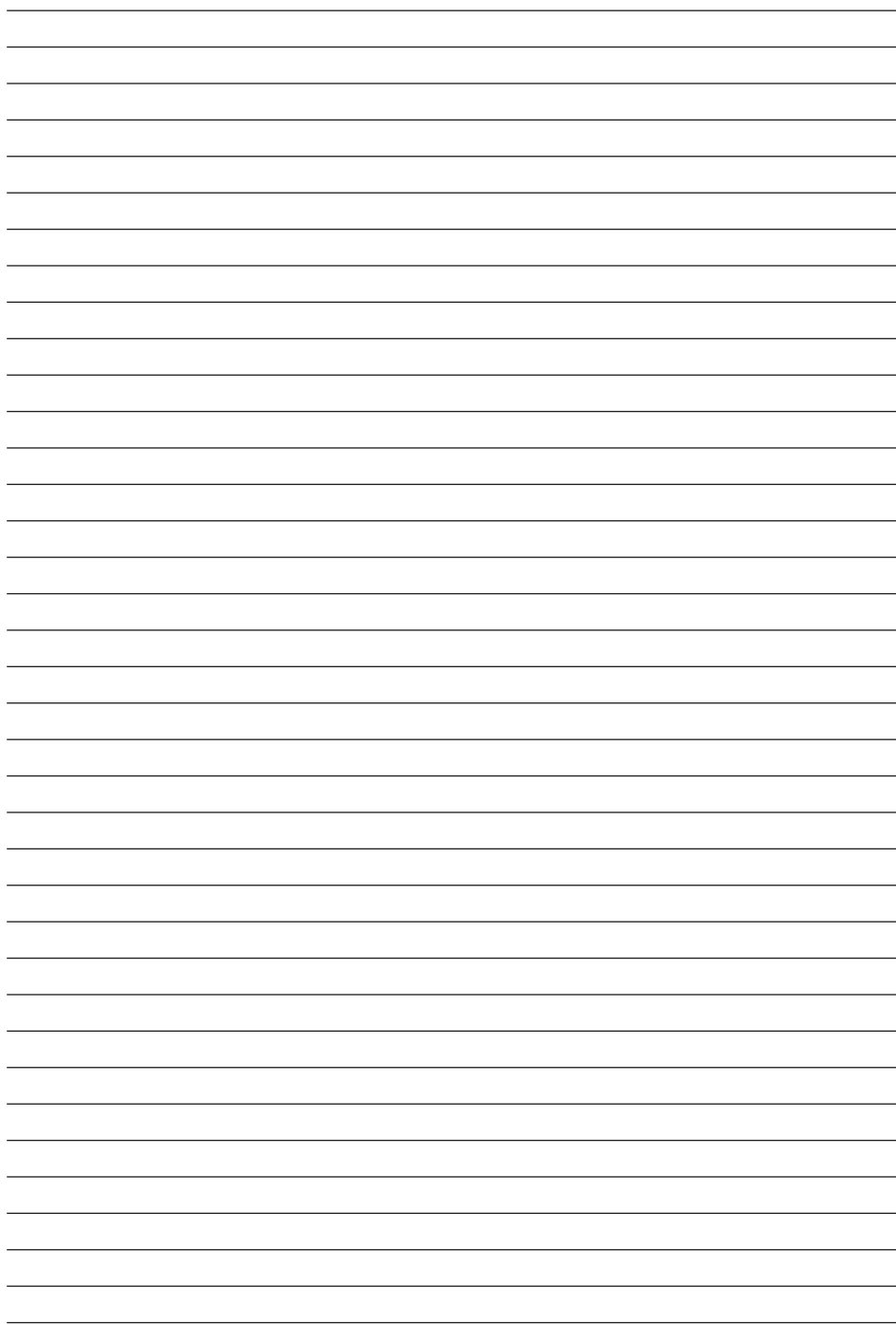




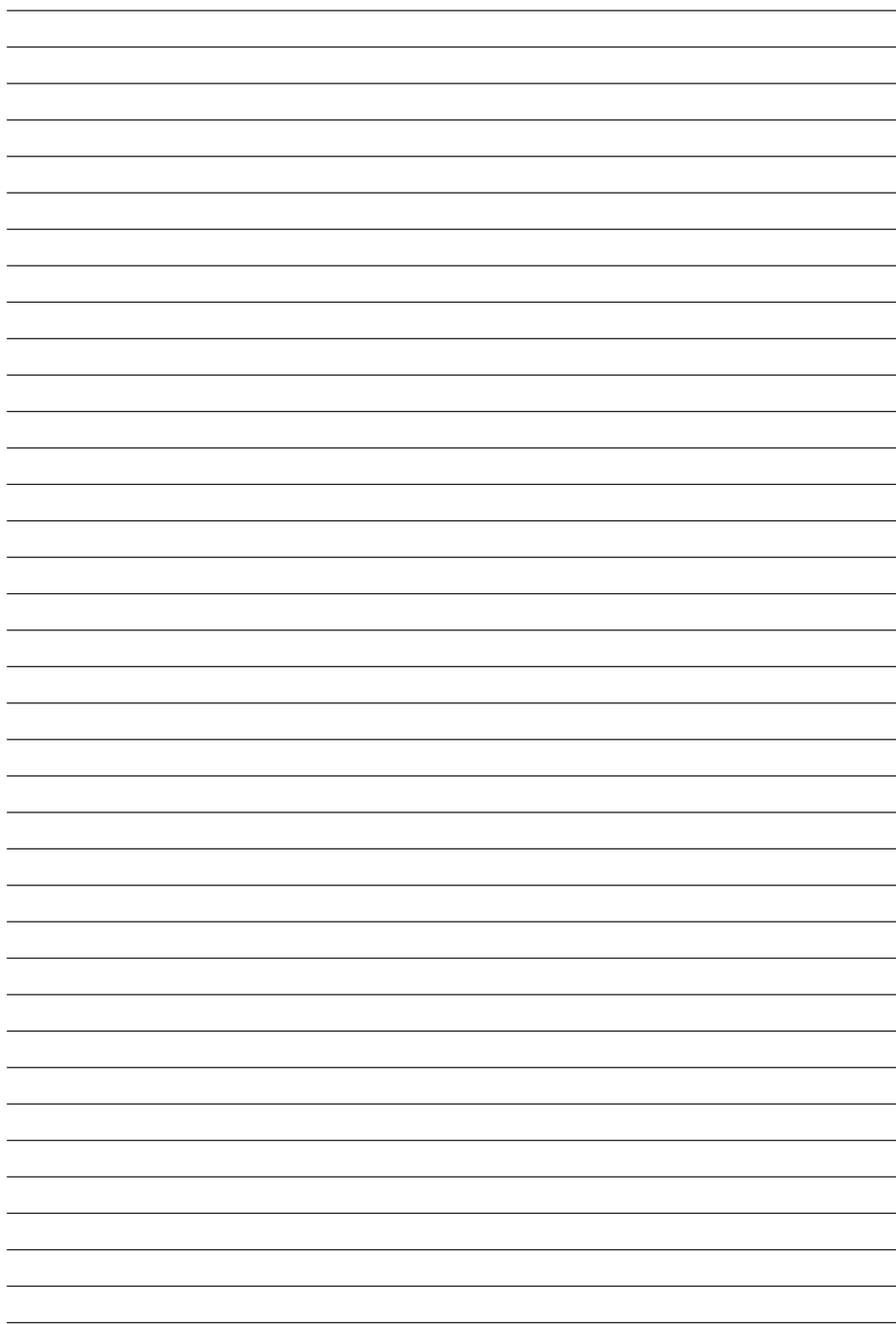














THE WHOLE STORY | PART FIVE

UPSTATE CHURCH

