



Story & Journey
New Member Guidebook

Everyone has a story. And everyone is on a journey with God, who is the Author of our story. This is a truth that is central to learning in the Kingdom, because all of our learning is meant to occur in the context of our relationship with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

It's not just knowledge you're acquiring. It's your experiences of God that transform you more and more into His image.

Knowledge + Encounter = Transformation

When we embark on a trip, we often take a Guidebook with us. A Guidebook is not an itinerary; it's a reference. It gives options of where to eat, stay and explore...but the decisions are ours to make.

All of our teaching and resources at Brilliant offer you **choices and invitations**...because everything God does is rooted in freedom.

If you're a new member, you might be hearing new language and may have questions. You're invited to use this Guidebook as a supplement to the Story and Journey series. It will highlight some **Key Truths** for learning in the Brilliant community and in the Kingdom.

Relax and enjoy these early months of exploration at Brilliant TV as much as God is enjoying them with you.

Take your time. Go at a pace that seems best to you and the Holy Spirit.

God loves every interaction He has with you...as do we.

~ Graham Cooke & Allison Bown
Creative Partners / Brilliant TV

Introduction to Story and Journey

Brilliant TV is meant to be a catalyst to your personal story and journey with God, not a study course to be completed and graded.

All of our learning in the Kingdom is meant to be relational. Like the disciples in Acts 4:13, you'll look more and more like Jesus because you've personally encountered Him (2 Corinthians 3:18)!

From that perspective, let's consider one key thought from this introduction:

Before you were ever born, God was the Author of your story.

Take time to read Psalm 139: 1-18 aloud...slowly... several times if you can.

*Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them (NKJV)*

Now consider these questions:

What changes for you when you know that God has gone before you?

(He is not only the Author of your story... but the finisher of it?)

What negatives would you have less of?

What good things would you have more of?

Just take a few notes. Nothing extensive. You're just beginning to think with Him about what's possible in your explorations of Story and Journey... and that's enough for now.

Episode 1: God's Story and Journey Towards You

God initiates. We respond.

Each episode of Brilliant TV is rich. There's no expectation for you to get it all at once! Here are some strategies that you may find helpful in your processing:

- It's okay to **focus on just one thought** that captivates your heart.
- **Listening more than once** is a great idea. (Most people do!)
- **Push the pause button** to reflect on the connections God is making for you.
- And remember: **God is the initiator of all spirituality.**

It's a point made early in this episode, but it's a Key Truth for navigating your Brilliant TV adventure. This isn't all on you! God is the initiator. We are the responders.

Think about it. 1 John 4:19, "We love Him because He **FIRST** loved us."
He loves first. We respond to His love by loving Him in return.

From the beginning, HE is the one making us into His image. We are responding to how He is with us and joyfully taking the everyday learning opportunities we encounter.

So, if you choose to engage in the Crafted Prayer activation at the end of the episode, remember that you don't have to *try* to connect with God.

He lives in you. He is always present. He never changes.
He is the initiator. You are the responder.

Pray with that sense of peace and empowering grace... and take a few notes of what begins to shift in your heart as you pray.

Keep it simple.
Enjoy the journey

Episode 2: God's True Nature is His Story

Goodness is Always Present

The essence of God's true nature is that He is good. So, no matter what is occurring in your life, the goodness of God is always present.

This is an essential lens for viewing the everyday training grounds in your life. That's where you'll be practicing what you're learning in our Brilliant TV community.

**Every situation - good, bad, or ugly -
holds an encounter with the goodness of God.**

If that is always our starting point, then the very first thing we will ask is, "Where is the goodness of God evident in this situation?"

The situation may not be *good*. People around you may not be doing good things. But we're not rejoicing in that. We're rejoicing in who God has promised to be for us at all times - and is always traveling with us in goodness.

**That's a powerful lens that will allow you to see His true nature clearly,
especially in challenging times.**

Very often, people will recount the details of their calamity, as if to prove it changes the nature of God. But what if instead, it's the lens of God's goodness that changes how you see your situation?

As you think through the activation in this episode - "what is your favorite attribute of the true nature of God?" - take some time to meditate on the glory of goodness that goes with it.

And pack this powerful question with you in all of your Brilliant opportunities:

Where is the goodness of God evident in this situation?

It's a question that will serve you well as we travel together.

Episode 3: The Journey of Grace

Everything is a Gift

The Truth of Grace in this episode is one that you'll carry all throughout your life with God... and your Brilliant experience. We'll talk about it in a number of ways. In fact, there's a whole series on "Empowering Presence" and grace.

In all your explorations with us, there's a Key Truth that's in this episode that will help you:

Everything is a Gift.

Every major aspect of life in God is a gift from Him:

Salvation is a gift - Ephesians 2:8-9

Eternal life is a gift - Romans 6:23

Righteousness is a gift - Romans 5:17

To will and do for His good pleasure is a gift - Philippians 2:13

Grace is a gift - Romans 5:17

Gift of gifts to minister to one another - 1 Peter 4:10

You don't earn a gift. You receive it!

In all your development, receive first the Kingdom gifts that it is His good pleasure to give you (Luke 12:32)

This is hugely important in how you see and hear all of the teaching at Brilliant TV. It will allow you to recognize His presence in any situation... and make the most of your learning.

Your brilliant question:

What is Your gift for me in becoming what I'm learning?

Episode 4: The Rich Process of Traveling with God

How God Uses Questions

There are some great questions asked at the end of this episode! At Brilliant, we love questions - but we use them differently than many people are used to.

In school, church or our workplace, questions are often used to test our comprehension. Did we read or listen carefully? Have we memorized the information?

But God doesn't use questions like that.

God asks Questions of Exploration... not for information.

Just like the questions at the end of this episode, there isn't one right answer. Everyone's answers will be unique because you have a unique story and journey with God.

We highly recommend that you watch this short, 6-minute video on "How God Uses Questions," so that you can relax and enjoy the Questions of Exploration that you'll encounter here on Brilliant TV.

<https://www.brillianttv.com/making-the-most-of-brilliant-tv-1/season:1/videos/7>

It's a wonderful key to discovering the joy of the journey!

(You may wish to watch a few more of the "Making the Most of Brilliant TV" episodes. Each one stands alone and explores some of the most frequent questions that our members have.)

Episode 5: Discovering Your Territory

Processing Prophetic Words

This is the first episode in Story & Journey that contains a corporate prophetic word. You'll encounter these in numerous places throughout Brilliant TV.

A "corporate prophetic word" is one that's been carefully considered and crafted with the Holy Spirit. The language is rich and intentional.

Even though these words are given to many people, the beautiful thing is that they can become *your* word from the Lord through your own conversations with the Holy Spirit. Which means that everyone in the Brilliant TV community has access to quality, prophetic ministry!

(We've put some resources for that process below.)

In this episode, we encourage you to **listen again and again** to this word. Consider downloading the entire word for free at the link given in the notes. (Click on "Show More" under the video to find that.)

Let the richness of the language wash over you.

Feel the joy and commitment of God to travel with you.

Allow passion and excitement for the journey ahead overtake you.

Lay aside any feelings of lack or insecurity in going on this Brilliant adventure... and focus on God's promises to you in this word instead.

We recommend that you wait until *after* you've completed the Story and Journey series to view the videos referenced below on making this corporate word, *your* word of the Lord.

But when you're ready, you may wish to explore:

"Corporate Words on BTV" on our Forum Board. This has links to all of the corporate prophetic words on Brilliant TV... plus links to Episodes 10 - 12 from "The Gift of Righteousness," where we walk you through processing prophetic words like this one.

<https://www.brillianttv.com/forums/prayer-counsel-prophetic-ministry/29888-corporate-prophetic-words-on-btv>

Episode 6: How Will You Travel with God?

The Power of Rejoicing

As you interact with the “root” and “fruit” questions in the activation to this episode, also take note of this key truth:

*“I put the circumstances on one side and focused on love.
I began to thank God and rejoice that He is unchanging towards me...
...Rejoicing always upgrades our identity in Jesus.”*

In addition to collecting the Questions for Exploration that are all throughout Brilliant TV, be sure to include Rejoicing in your “Luggage” of provision.

Whenever we feel inadequate, anxious or fearful - there are three provisions in this episode:

1) Focus on love. 2) Rejoice in God’s unchanging nature. 3) Give thanks

Often, the answer to our difficulties is simply our level of rejoicing.

Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice *in the Lord* always. And again I say, rejoice!” Our rejoicing is always in the Lord because He is always with us. Who He is in us, for us and with us never changes.

When something appears difficult or overwhelming, don’t try to “apply” the most recent teaching you’ve heard. Truth isn’t meant to be applied. It’s meant to be relationally encountered in Jesus, who is the Way, the TRUTH and the Life. The Truth is a Person!

Rejoice in the Person of Jesus as your starting point:

Rejoice that He is the Way through, around or over any obstacles you encounter.

Rejoice that He is Truth itself and He lives in you.

Rejoice that He loves every encounter with you and has every intention of it becoming your Life in Him.

Then, begin thinking with Him... and with us... about the possibilities present before you. You’ll be surprised at your new perspectives.

Episode 7: Establishing Your Territory

Evidences of Transformation

As you listen, learn and interact with our community, the outcome we desire most is that your learning is established in your life. It's why our primary assessment is through:

Evidences of Transformation*

We don't use tests or numerical scales to demonstrate relational growth, because God doesn't. His primary purpose is to make us in His image (Genesis 1:26), so that's our central question of maturity:

*What transformations into His image are occurring?
And what is the evidence of those transformations?*

- Am I now perceiving God, myself and my circumstances the way He does?
- Am I thinking more with the Mind of Christ?
- Has my language changed because of that?
- What new actions or responses in my life reflect that?

For each of these statements, you should have a real-life example, a story that evidences your transformation.

We encourage you to use Evidences of Transformation **with every Brilliant TV series...** and keep copies for future reference.

They will encourage you in the Lord and be reminded of just how much you've changed since you first started. You've got this...because He's got you!

***For more on Evidences of Transformation:**

1) Making the Most of Brilliant TV, "How Do I Know if I'm Growing?"

LINK: <https://www.brillianttv.com/making-the-most-of-brilliant-tv-1/season:1/videos/6>

2) Resources for BTV Learning Forum board... "Evidences of Transformation."

This has a general Evidences of Transformation that you can use with any BTV series. It also has further resources about what we mean by "perceptions," "mindsets" and "language."

LINK:

<https://www.brillianttv.com/forums/resources-for-btv-learning/29894-evidences-of-transformation>

Episode 8: Walking Off Your Map

Where to next?

Congratulations! You've finished this first round of exploration of your Story and Journey with God!

This is a series we hope that you'll come back to frequently to be encouraged and to encounter how you've grown since first beginning Brilliant TV.

The questions asked in this episode can become a great part of your Evidences of Transformation in your mindsets. Continue to explore with these!

Where do you go next? That's up to you. Here are some possibilities to consider:

- **“The Fruit of the Spirit: The True Nature of God.”** This series also comes with a unique New Member Guidebook that has several perspectives not covered in this Guidebook.
- **“Flip the Switch”** is a short, 4-episode series that gives you a good overview of foundational Brilliant perspectives. Total viewing time: Less than 30 minutes.
- **“Life Questions”** Mentoring Series gives you excellent questions you'll again and again in your relationship with God. Each session stands alone, so you can do some or all of the episodes.

Also, explore our **“Questions and Responses Collection”** in the **Forums** with several pages of questions and coaching for you to gain from! Link:

<https://www.brillianttv.com/forums/question-response-collection>

Go at the pace that seems good for you and the Holy Spirit.
Most of all, enjoy the journey and love the learning.