Episode 20:

What Story Are You Living?

Moving from Self-Reliance to Partnership with God

StoryLens™ Podcast One-Sheet Snapshot

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Most families that love God are doing a great deal for God. Far fewer, however, are doing any of it with Him. That's the distinction between Story One, the story God intends for your family, and Story Two, the life built on the culture's terms with God set aside. And there is a difference. It shows up in whether capital is deployed or buried, whether the rising generation is invited into the work or merely notified of it, and whether a family's charitable giving is just a line item or a joyful participation in something God is already doing.

In this faith at work conversation, **Allen Arnold,** John Christensen, and Cameron Bond sharpen the framework the StoryLens podcast has carried since Episode 2. That is, you don't have to guess which story a family is living in, but merely look honestly at what the family keeps choosing.

EPISODE 20

Featuring:
John Christensen, JD CFP®
Cameron Bond, CFP®

Guest:
Allen Arnold
Author and Wild at Heart Executive Producer

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For God, or With Him

For is good but it's not the same thing as With: Doing things for God, or about God, is genuinely good. It's also something people can do at arm's length, on their own schedule, and in their own strength. With is closer, though, it's a dance, and a dance has two people.

The default isn't atheism, but self-reliance: Story Two is rarely a flat out rejection of God but shows up as a quiet operating assumption that it's handled, and God will be called upon as needed.

Imagination comes before creation: Nothing gets made that was not first imagined. For a multigenerational family, it's worth projecting fifty or a hundred years into the future and imagining what can be.

Where the Fear Comes From:

Kryptonite is made at home: What most limits an individual or family's judgment about money is almost always ormed early, during childhood, at home, and is rarely examined. Whether money felt available or withheld in childhood shapes decisions decades later, at all levels of wealth.

Scarcity isn't a balance sheet condition: A person can hold substantial wealth and still operate out of a spirit of scarcity. The mindset is formed before money arrives, and the money doesn't change it.

Freedom and fear are the real tension: In the parable of the talents, the servants were given almost no direction. What distinguised them wasn't instruction. Rather, it was whether they acted from freedom or fear, and the one who acted from fear buried what he had been given.

Notable Quotes

"We're not called to just do things for God through actions. We're called to do life with God as sons and daughters."
-Allen Arnold

"Whether you're rich or poor, you can have a scarcity mindset."
-Allen Arnold

continued on page 2 →

StoryOne

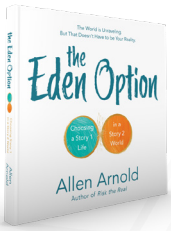
Aligned or Fragmented: What a Family Says and What It Does

A different chapter requires a different story: Results follow the system that produced them. A family that keeps operating in the same manner will receive similar results.

Naming is the precondition, not the soft opening: A problem left vague stays unaddressed. The gift is to name it plainly, together, so the next step becomes obvious.

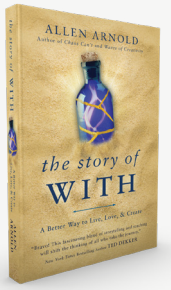
The Table of Strategic Alignment ("TSA"): StoryOne uses the TSA to help families see where they're aligned and where they're fragmented, as part of the StoryLens™ process. It's a simple three-column table. Column one is what you say you want. Column two is what you're actually doing. Column three is the next step. It can be an uncomfortable document because families often find unnamed disconnects.

Additional Resources



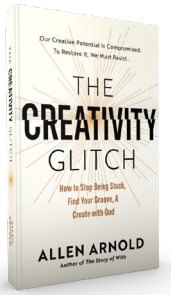
The Eden Option
by Allen Arnold

The book that gave StoryOne its name.
Story One is the story God intended;
Story Two is the life built on one's own terms.



The Story of With
by Allen Arnold

Combines a fantastical allegory with practical application to help readers move away from a life of exhausting striving and burnout.



The Creativity Glitch
by Allen Arnold

Names the seven patterns that keep people stuck and unable to make what matters.

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