

MARCH 1 - APRIL 4, 2026

THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 8
SURRENDER



IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS NOTHING.

Then, in a declaration that shook eternity
—God said,

“LET THERE BE LIGHT”

Before time began, a story was written...

A story of creation and chaos, of covenants and kings, of exiles and redeemers, of battles—both seen and unseen.

Across the pages of Scripture, woven through generations, one narrative emerges—GRAND in scope, eternal in significance.

This is not just ancient history. This is not just a book.

This... is the heart of God moving through every page, every person, every promise.

From Genesis to Revelation, The Grand Narrative is our story—A journey from darkness to light, from brokenness to restoration,

From the garden... to the grave... to glory.

To glory

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MARCH 1, 2026

JESUS AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER

BIBLE BASIS:

Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

KEY VERSE:

Hebrews 12:1

BIG IDEA:

Jesus wants us to remove anything that keeps us from following Him.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER

OPENING QUESTION:

Describe a time when letting go of something actually opened the door to something better in your life. How did you feel during that process?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)
- Luke 18:18-30 (NIV)
- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus invites us to examine what's holding us back from fully following Him.
2. Our attachments—whether to wealth, comfort, or status—can become spiritual barriers.
3. Removing these barriers leads to deeper trust and freedom in Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you personally about the interaction between Jesus and the rich young ruler?
2. In Mark 10:21 (NIV), why do you think Jesus told the man to sell everything and give to the poor?
3. What are some things in your life that could be competing with your devotion to Jesus?
4. According to Hebrews 12:1 (NIV), what does it look like to "throw off everything that hinders"?
5. How can our group help each other identify and remove obstacles to following Jesus?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus points to the things that compete for first place in our hearts.
2. Trusting Jesus means being willing to surrender what we value most.
3. True fulfillment comes from following Christ, not holding onto earthly treasures.
4. Each of us must honestly evaluate our own "hindrances."
5. The rewards of surrendering to Jesus far outweigh the cost.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Ask God to reveal anything in your life that might be keeping you from wholeheartedly following Him.
2. Memorize Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) this week as a reminder to lay aside what hinders you.
3. Share with someone in the group one thing you're working to surrender, and pray for each other.
4. Set aside intentional time each day to seek Jesus and realign your priorities.
5. Look for a way to give, serve, or practice generosity this week as a step of letting go.

WEEK 3 I

MARCH 2

Reading 2 Corinthians 1-3 | Comfort in suffering; new covenant

MARCH 3

Reading 2 Corinthians 4-6 | Treasure in jars; ministry of reconciliation

MARCH 4

Reading 2 Corinthians 7-9 | Godly sorrow; generous giving

MARCH 5

Reading 2 Corinthians 10-13 | Paul's defense; vision; final warnings

MARCH 6

Reading Romans 1-2 | God's wrath; Jews and Gentiles

MARCH 7

Reading Romans 3-4 | Righteousness through faith; Abraham

MARCH 8, 2026

JESUS AND THE POOR WIDOW

BIBLE BASIS:

Mark 12:41-44

KEY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 9:7

BIG IDEA:

God is the giver of all good things and He calls us to give with cheerful hearts.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

**JESUS AND THE POOR WIDOW - GIVING WITH A
CHEERFUL HEART**

OPENING QUESTION:

Think about a time when you gave something—money, time, or encouragement—to someone in need. How did that experience affect you?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus observes the offering and values the heart behind the gift
2. The poor widow gives all she has, demonstrating true generosity
3. God calls us to be cheerful and sacrificial givers, trusting Him as our provider

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you felt challenged to give more than felt comfortable? What happened, and what did you learn?
2. Why does Jesus say the widow's small gift is greater than the large gifts of the rich (Mark 12:43-44 NIV)?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV), what is the attitude God desires in our giving? How do we cultivate this?
4. As a group, how can we come alongside each other to encourage generosity—not just financially, but in all aspects of life?
5. What step can you take this week to give cheerfully and sacrificially? How can we support each other in that?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God sees not just the amount we give, but the heart and sacrifice behind it.
2. True generosity isn't measured by the size of the gift, but by the spirit of trust and surrender.
3. God desires cheerful, willing, and joyful giving.
4. Everything we have comes from God; we are simply stewards.
5. Generosity is part of our worship and trust in God's provision.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify one area this week where you can give sacrificially—time, resources, encouragement, or finances.
2. Commit to memorizing 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV): "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
3. Pair up with someone in the group to share your giving goal and check in next week.
4. Spend time in prayer asking God to give you a cheerful heart in giving and to show you practical opportunities to bless others.
5. As a group, choose one way to serve or give together in the community this month.

WEEK 32

MARCH 9

Reading Romans 5-6 | Peace with God; dead to sin

MARCH 10

Reading Romans 7-8 | Struggle with sin; life in the Spirit

MARCH 11

Reading Romans 9-10 | God's sovereignty; Israel's unbelief

MARCH 12

Reading Romans 11-12 | Israel's future; living sacrifices

MARCH 13

Reading Romans 13-14 | Submit to authorities; Christian liberty

MARCH 14

Reading Romans 15-16 | Unity; Paul's plans; greetings

MARCH 15, 2026

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLE'S FEET

BIBLE BASIS:

John 13:1-17

KEY VERSE:

Mark 9:35

BIG IDEA:

Jesus served others and wants us to do the same.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever been surprised by someone showing you kindness or serving you in a humble way? How did that make you feel?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- John 13:1-17 (NIV)
- Mark 9:35 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus demonstrated humility by washing His disciples' feet.
2. Serving others is an example set by Jesus for us to follow.
3. True greatness in God's kingdom comes through serving, not being served.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways is it challenging for you to serve others humbly, as Jesus did?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to wash His disciples' feet, and what does John 13:14-15 (NIV) show us about His intent?
3. How can you practice serving others in your daily life or relationships, following the example of Jesus?
4. How would it change our community or small group if we all took Jesus' instructions in Mark 9:35 (NIV) to heart?
5. What is one way God is challenging you to step outside your comfort zone to serve this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus models servant leadership by humbling Himself to meet practical needs.
2. (14) "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14 NIV)
3. Serving others is not optional for followers of Christ—it's a command and an honor.
4. (35) "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35 NIV)
5. We are most like Jesus when we humble ourselves and put the needs of others ahead of our own.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Look for a specific opportunity this week to serve someone in your family, workplace, or church.
2. Memorize John 13:14-15 (NIV) or Mark 9:35 (NIV) to remind you of Jesus' example.
3. Pair up with someone in the group to encourage and keep each other accountable in serving others this week.
4. Commit to praying each day for a servant's heart and for opportunities to bless others.
5. Organize a group service project or outreach to practice servant leadership together.

WEEK 33

MARCH 16

Reading Acts 21-22 | Paul arrested; defense to Jews

MARCH 17

Reading Acts 23-24 | Plot against Paul; trial before Felix

MARCH 18

Reading Acts 25-26 | Appeal to Caesar; testimony to Agrippa

MARCH 19

Reading Acts 27-28 | Voyage to Rome; ministry under guard

MARCH 20

Reading Colossians 1-2 | Supremacy of Christ; false teaching

MARCH 21

Reading Colossians 3-4 | New life in Christ; household code

MARCH 22, 2026

THE LAST SUPPER

BIBLE BASIS:

Matthew 26:17-30; Luke 22:7-30

KEY VERSE:

1 Cor. 11:26

BIG IDEA:

Jesus gave His body and blood for our sins, so we can remember Him through communion.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE LAST SUPPER

OPENING QUESTION:

Share about a time when someone's sacrifice made a difference in your life. How did that experience impact you?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 26:17-30 (NIV)
- Luke 22:7-30 (NIV)
- 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples, giving it new meaning.
2. Jesus explained that the bread and the cup represent His body and blood given for us.
3. He commanded us to remember His sacrifice through communion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does it feel to know that Jesus intentionally chose to give His life for you?
2. In Matthew 26:26-28, what do the bread and cup symbolize, and why is that significant?
3. How can you regularly and meaningfully participate in communion to remember Jesus' sacrifice?
4. What stands out to you about Jesus' interaction with His disciples during the Last Supper?
5. How can we as a group help each other remember and live out the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus willingly gave His body and blood for our sins.
2. Communion is a powerful reminder of what Jesus did for us.
3. Remembering Jesus through communion is not just a ritual, but a relationship.
4. The Last Supper invites us into deeper fellowship with Christ and with each other.
5. Our gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice should impact how we live and love others.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Take time this week to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and thank Him in prayer.
2. Memorize 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV): "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."
3. Pair up with another group member to discuss what communion means to you and hold each other accountable to remember its importance.
4. Spend a few minutes each day this week in prayer, specifically focusing on gratitude for Christ's sacrifice.
5. Serve someone in your community as an act of remembrance for Jesus' selfless love.

WEEK 34

MARCH 23

Reading Philemon | Appeal for Onesimus

MARCH 24

Reading Ephesians 1-3 | Spiritual blessings; unity in Christ

MARCH 25

Reading Ephesians 4-6 | Walking worthy; spiritual warfare

Watch **TGN Today** with Pastor Mike Matheny online at 5 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays via YouTube and Facebook, or join Pastor Doug Anderson daily at gwwj.org

MARCH 26

Reading Philippians 1-2 | Joy in suffering; Christ's humility

MARCH 27

Reading Philippians 3-4 | Press toward goal; rejoice always

MARCH 28

Reading 1 Timothy 1-3 | Sound doctrine; church leadership

MARCH 29, 2026

THIEF ON THE CROSS

BIBLE BASIS:

Matt 27:11-66; Luke 23

KEY VERSE:

Titus 2:11

BIG IDEA:

God's grace is big enough, so we can go to Him no matter who we are or what we've done.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THIEF ON THE CROSS — GOD'S GRACE FOR ALL

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever felt like you didn't deserve forgiveness or a second chance? What was that experience like for you?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 27:11-66 (NIV)
- Luke 23 (NIV)
- Titus 2:11 (NIV): (11) "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people." (Titus 2:11 NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.
2. The thief on the cross demonstrates that grace is available at any moment.
3. Our salvation is not based on what we have done, but on our faith in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you experienced or witnessed surprising grace in someone's life?
2. Read Luke 23:39-43. What stands out to you about the thief's interaction with Jesus?
3. How does understanding the breadth of God's grace affect the way you view your own past and failures?
4. In what ways can we, as a group, help each other remember that we are accepted by God's grace, not by our own efforts?
5. Who in your life needs to hear about God's grace this week? How can you share it with them?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's grace extends to everyone, no matter their past.
2. It's never too late to turn to Jesus and receive forgiveness.
3. A simple faith—just like that of the thief—is enough to receive God's promise of salvation.
4. Our identity and future are not determined by our worst moments but by God's love and grace.
5. God's grace invites us to offer the same acceptance and hope to others.

NEXT STEPS:

1. **Personal Reflection:** Spend time this week asking God to show you areas where you need to accept His grace.
2. **Scripture Memory:** Memorize Titus 2:11 (NIV) — "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."
3. **Accountability:** Pair up with someone in the group to check in on how you're embracing and sharing God's grace.
4. **Prayer:** Commit to daily prayer, thanking God for His unconditional grace.
5. **Community:** Reach out to someone who may feel disqualified by their past and share an encouraging word about God's grace.

WEEK 35

MARCH 30

Reading 1 Timothy 4-6 | Minister's conduct; various instructions

MARCH 31

Reading Titus 1-3 | Church organization; good works

APRIL 1

Reading 2 Timothy 1-2 | Not ashamed; faithful service

APRIL 2

Reading 2 Timothy 3-4 | Last days; Paul's farewell

APRIL 3

Reading 1 Peter 1-2 | Living hope; holy living

APRIL 4

Reading 1 Peter 3-5 | Suffering; shepherding the flock

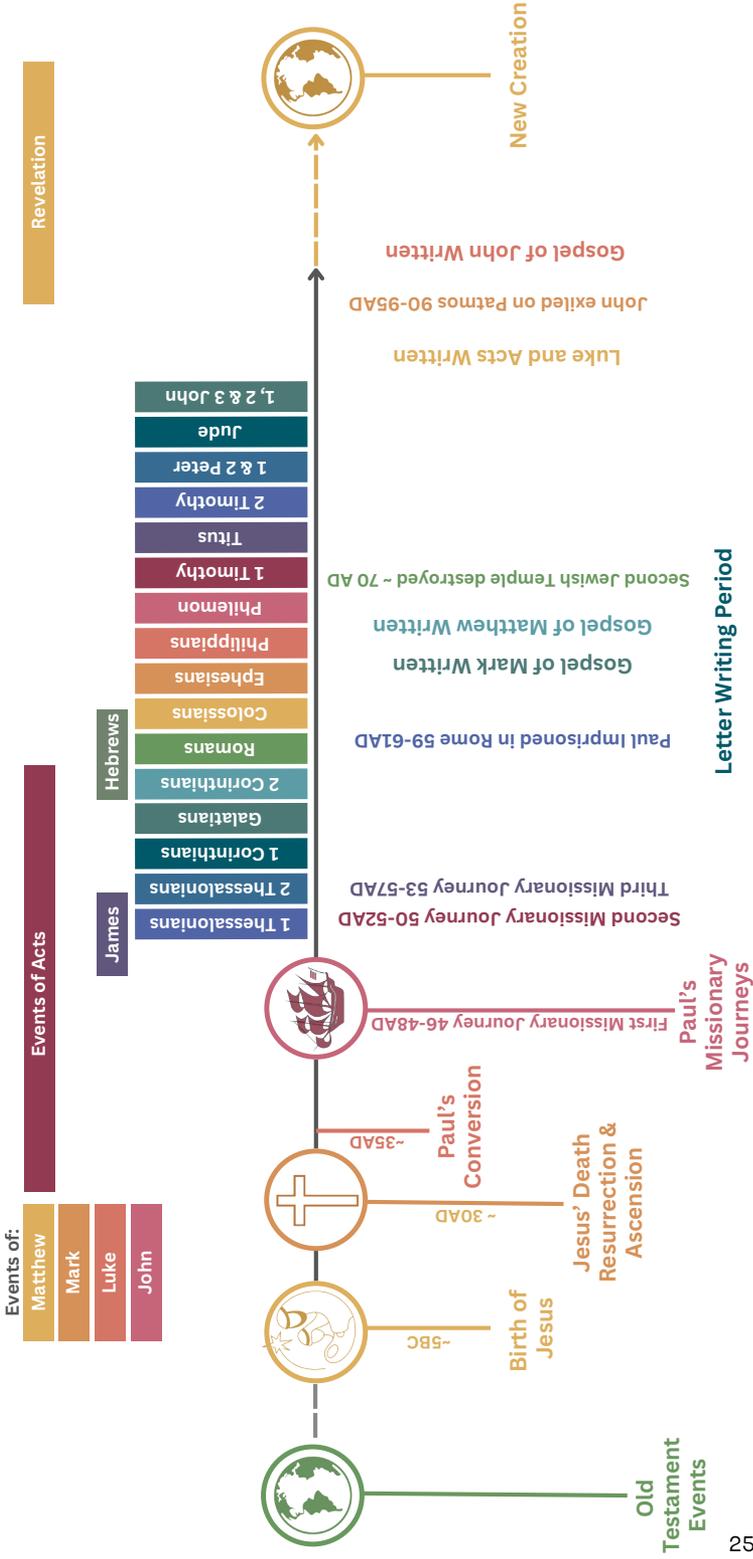
Old Testament Visual Timeline

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~2000E



New Testament Graphic Timeline



NOTES



CHURCH
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