

Devotion 28: Death Runs the Story

March 26, 2026

Scripture: *Romans 5:12, 17*

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”

Devotion

If you read through the Bible like a long story, one word keeps showing up on almost every page: death. Adam and Eve sinned, and death entered the world. Read those long lists of names in Genesis—and he died, and he died, and he died. The flood brought death. Wars brought death. Even the great heroes of faith—Abraham, Moses, David—they all died. Death runs the story of the Bible like a dark thread woven through every chapter. But Paul tells us something amazing in Romans: as powerful as death is, grace is more powerful. Death came through one man, Adam. But life—real, eternal, unshakeable life—comes through one man, Jesus Christ. And Paul doesn’t say they’re equal. He says “much more.” Grace doesn’t just match death point for point. It overwhelms death. It floods over death like a river overflowing its banks in spring. As we approach Holy Week, we see the dark thread of death leading straight to the cross. But we also see that the cross is exactly where grace wins.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does death show up so often in the Bible’s story?
2. What does Paul mean when he says grace is “much more” than death?
3. How does knowing that grace overwhelms death help you face hard things?

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, death has been part of our story since the very beginning. But You sent Your Son so that grace and life would be even greater. Help us to cling to Jesus, through whom we reign in life. Amen.

Family Action Item: Together as a family, read through one of the genealogy lists in Genesis 5 and notice how each entry ends. Then read Romans 5:17 again and thank God that Jesus changes the ending.