

A person with long dark hair, wearing a yellow robe, stands with their back to the camera. Their right arm is raised, hand open, gesturing towards a bright sunset over a desert landscape with rolling hills. In the foreground, the silhouettes of a group of people are visible, looking towards the speaker. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 7
THE TEACHER

FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2026

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JESUS TEACHES ON LOVING OUR ENEMIES....	4
Small Group Guide	4
WEEK 27 Reading Plan	6
JESUS TEACHES ON GIVING.....	8
Small Group Guide	8
WEEK 28 Reading Plan	10
JESUS TEACHES ON HOW TO PRAY	12
Small Group Guide	12
WEEK 29 Reading Plan.....	14
JESUS TEACHES ON WORRY	16
Small Group Guide	16
WEEK 30 Reading Plan	18
OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE	20
NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE	21

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

JESUS TEACHES ON LOVING OUR ENEMIES

BIBLE BASIS:

Matthew 5:38-48

KEY VERSE:

Matthew 5:44

BIG IDEA:

Jesus teaches us to love everyone,
including our enemies.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS TEACHES ON LOVING OUR ENEMIES

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever had someone who was difficult to get along with? How did you handle that relationship?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 5:38-48 (NIV)
- Key Verse: 44 "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44 NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus redefines justice and retaliation, moving beyond "eye for eye" thinking (Matthew 5:38–39 NIV).
2. Jesus calls us to radical love—loving not only our neighbors but also our enemies (Matthew 5:43–44 NIV).
3. Jesus challenges us to reflect God's perfect love by showing kindness even to those who mistreat us (Matthew 5:45–48 NIV).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of a time when loving someone who hurt you made a difference in your life or theirs?
2. What does Jesus mean when He tells us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"? (Matthew 5:44 NIV)
3. In what practical ways can you respond with love instead of retaliation when someone wrongs you this week?
4. How might your group support and encourage one another to follow Jesus' example of loving difficult people?
5. What is one step you can take to love someone you find hard to love? What obstacles might you need to overcome?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus raises the standard from fairness to forgiveness and love.
2. Loving enemies is a direct reflection of God's character.
3. Praying for those who wrong us softens our hearts and transforms relationships.
4. Living out Jesus' teaching sets us apart as children of God.
5. True discipleship means living differently from the world—choosing love over revenge.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify one person you struggle to love and commit to praying for them daily this week.
2. Memorize Matthew 5:44 (NIV): "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
3. Share with the group next week any steps you took to love someone you find difficult and discuss the results.
4. Spend a few minutes daily asking God to give you a heart like His—forgiveness, patience, and compassion.
5. As a group, look for a way to show love to a group or individual in your community who may feel like an "enemy."

WEEK 27

FEBRUARY 2

Reading Acts 5-6 | Ananias and Sapphira; choosing deacons

FEBRUARY 3

Reading Acts 7-8 | Stephen's speech and death; Philip's ministry

FEBRUARY 4

Reading Acts 9-10 | Paul's conversion; Peter and Cornelius

FEBRUARY 5

Reading Acts 11-12 | Gospel to Gentiles; Peter’s escape

FEBRUARY 6

Reading Acts 13-14 | First missionary journey

FEBRUARY 7

Reading James 1-2 | Trials; faith and works

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

JESUS TEACHES ON GIVING

BIBLE BASIS:

Matthew 6:1-4

KEY VERSE:

Matthew 6:4

BIG IDEA:

Jesus teaches us to be generous and to perform our good deeds in secret.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS TEACHES ON GIVING

OPENING QUESTION:

Can you remember a time when someone quietly did something generous for you or someone you know? How did that act impact you?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV)
- Key Verse: Matthew 6:4 (NIV): (4) "so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus warns against practicing righteousness to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1 NIV)
2. Giving should be done quietly and without seeking recognition (Matthew 6:2-3 NIV)
3. God rewards generosity that is done in secret (Matthew 6:4 NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you struggled with wanting recognition for something good you did? How did you handle it?
2. According to Matthew 6:1-4, why does Jesus say it's important to give in secret?
3. What are some practical ways you can be generous this week without drawing attention to yourself?
4. How do you think giving in secret can strengthen your relationship with God and others?
5. What is one area where God is challenging you to grow in generosity or humility right now?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus cares about the motives behind our giving.
2. Seeking praise from others diminishes the spiritual value of our generosity.
3. Quiet and humble giving pleases God and earns His reward.
4. Practicing secret generosity guards our hearts from pride.
5. Generosity is a practical way we reflect God's character to the world.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Ask God to reveal motives in your giving and look for an opportunity to give secretly this week.
2. Memorize Matthew 6:4 (NIV): (4) "so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."
3. Share with your accountability partner or group a step you're taking toward secret generosity.
4. Pray for humility and a generous heart, asking God to help you serve others without recognition.
5. As a group, brainstorm and plan a way to bless someone in your community quietly and together.

WEEK 28

FEBRUARY 9

Reading James 3-5 | Taming tongue; wisdom; patience

FEBRUARY 10

Reading Acts 15-16 | Jerusalem Council; Timothy joins Paul

FEBRUARY 11

Reading Galatians 1-2 | Paul's authority; justified by faith

FEBRUARY 12

Reading Galatians 3-4 | Law and promise; sons and heirs

FEBRUARY 13

Reading Galatians 5-6 | Freedom in Christ; fruit of Spirit

FEBRUARY 14

Reading Acts 17-18 | Paul in Athens and Corinth

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

JESUS TEACHES ON HOW TO PRAY

BIBLE BASIS:

Matthew 6:5-16

KEY VERSE:

Jeremiah 29:12

BIG IDEA:

Jesus teaches us how to say
powerful prayers that are
honoring to God.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS TEACHES ON HOW TO PRAY

OPENING QUESTION:

When you think back on prayers you've prayed, is there a prayer from your life that stands out as especially meaningful or memorable? What made it so?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 6:5-16 (NIV)
- Jeremiah 29:12 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus warns against praying to be seen by others (Matthew 6:5-6)
2. True prayer is sincere and focused on God (Matthew 6:7-8)
3. Jesus gives us a model for prayer—the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
4. Forgiving others is essential in our approach to prayer (Matthew 6:14-15)
5. When we pray, God listens and promises to respond (Jeremiah 29:12)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does your personal attitude toward prayer compare to what Jesus describes in Matthew 6?
2. In Matthew 6:9-13, what elements make up the Lord's Prayer, and why do you think Jesus included each one?
3. What practical steps can you take to make your private prayer life more meaningful and focused on God instead of others?
4. Why do you think Jesus links forgiveness with prayer in verses 14-15? How can our relationships with people affect our relationship with God?
5. This week, what is one thing you will commit to change in your prayer habits as a result of this teaching?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus values authentic, heartfelt prayer over public displays (Matthew 6:5-6 NIV).
2. God wants us to approach Him with sincerity, not empty words (Matthew 6:7-8 NIV).
3. The Lord's Prayer serves as a guide for honoring God, seeking His will, and asking for our needs (Matthew 6:9-13 NIV).
4. Forgiveness is a critical part of powerful, God-honoring prayer (Matthew 6:14-15 NIV).
5. God promises to listen and answer when we genuinely seek Him in prayer (Jeremiah 29:12 NIV).

NEXT STEPS:

1. Set aside five extra minutes each day for private, distraction-free prayer.
2. Memorize Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer) and Jeremiah 29:12 this week.
3. Pair up with a group member to check in about your prayer life progress.
4. Start or end each day with a written prayer or prayer journal, focusing on God's character and forgiveness.
5. Plan a group service project or prayer walk, putting prayer into action in your community.

WEEK 29

FEBRUARY 16

Reading 1 Thessalonians 1-3 | Thanksgiving; Timothy's report

FEBRUARY 17

Reading 1 Thessalonians 4-5 | Holy living; Christ's return

FEBRUARY 18

Reading 2 Thessalonians 1-3 | Persecution; day of the Lord

FEBRUARY 19

Reading Acts 19-20 | Ministry in Ephesus; farewell to elders

FEBRUARY 20

Reading 1 Corinthians 1-2 | Unity in Christ; wisdom of God

FEBRUARY 21

Reading 1 Corinthians 3-4 | Church divisions; faithful servants

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

JESUS TEACHES ON WORRY

BIBLE BASIS:

Matthew 6:25-34

KEY VERSE:

Philippians 4:6

BIG IDEA:

Jesus teaches that God cares for us, so we should give our worries to Him.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JESUS TEACHES ON WORRY

OPENING QUESTION:

What's something small or big that you've found yourself worrying about this week? How do you usually handle worry?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)
- Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus tells us not to worry about our everyday needs because God provides for us.
2. God cares deeply for each of us—more than we often realize.
3. Instead of worrying, Jesus invites us to trust God and seek His kingdom first.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you feel overwhelmed by worry, what is your first reaction?
2. According to Matthew 6:25–34, why does Jesus say we shouldn't worry about what we eat, drink, or wear?
3. How can you make seeking God's kingdom a practical daily habit, as Jesus suggests in verse 33?
4. How can our group support each other when we're facing anxious thoughts?
5. What is one area of worry you can intentionally surrender to God this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Jesus knows that worry is part of human life, but He teaches us to approach it differently.
2. God cares for all of His creation—and even more for us as His children.
3. Worry cannot add "a single hour to your life" (Matthew 6:27 NIV).
4. We are invited to trust God daily, not just in crisis moments.
5. Prayer and thanksgiving guard our hearts against anxiety (Philippians 4:6 NIV).

NEXT STEPS:

1. Individual Action Step: Commit to giving a specific worry to God in prayer this week.
2. Scripture Memory/Study Step: Memorize Philippians 4:6 (NIV) as a reminder to pray instead of worry.
3. Accountability Step: Pair up with someone in the group to check in and pray for each other's worries.
4. Prayer/Spiritual Discipline Step: Start a daily habit of surrendering anxieties to God through prayer.
5. Community Engagement Step: Look for ways to encourage someone outside this group who may be struggling with worry this week.

WEEK 30

FEBRUARY 23

Reading 1 Corinthians 5-6 | Church discipline; sexual purity

FEBRUARY 24

Reading 1 Corinthians 7-8 | Marriage; food offered to idols

FEBRUARY 25

Reading 1 Corinthians 9-10 | Rights; Israel's examples

FEBRUARY 26

Reading 1 Corinthians 11-12 | Lord's Supper; spiritual gifts

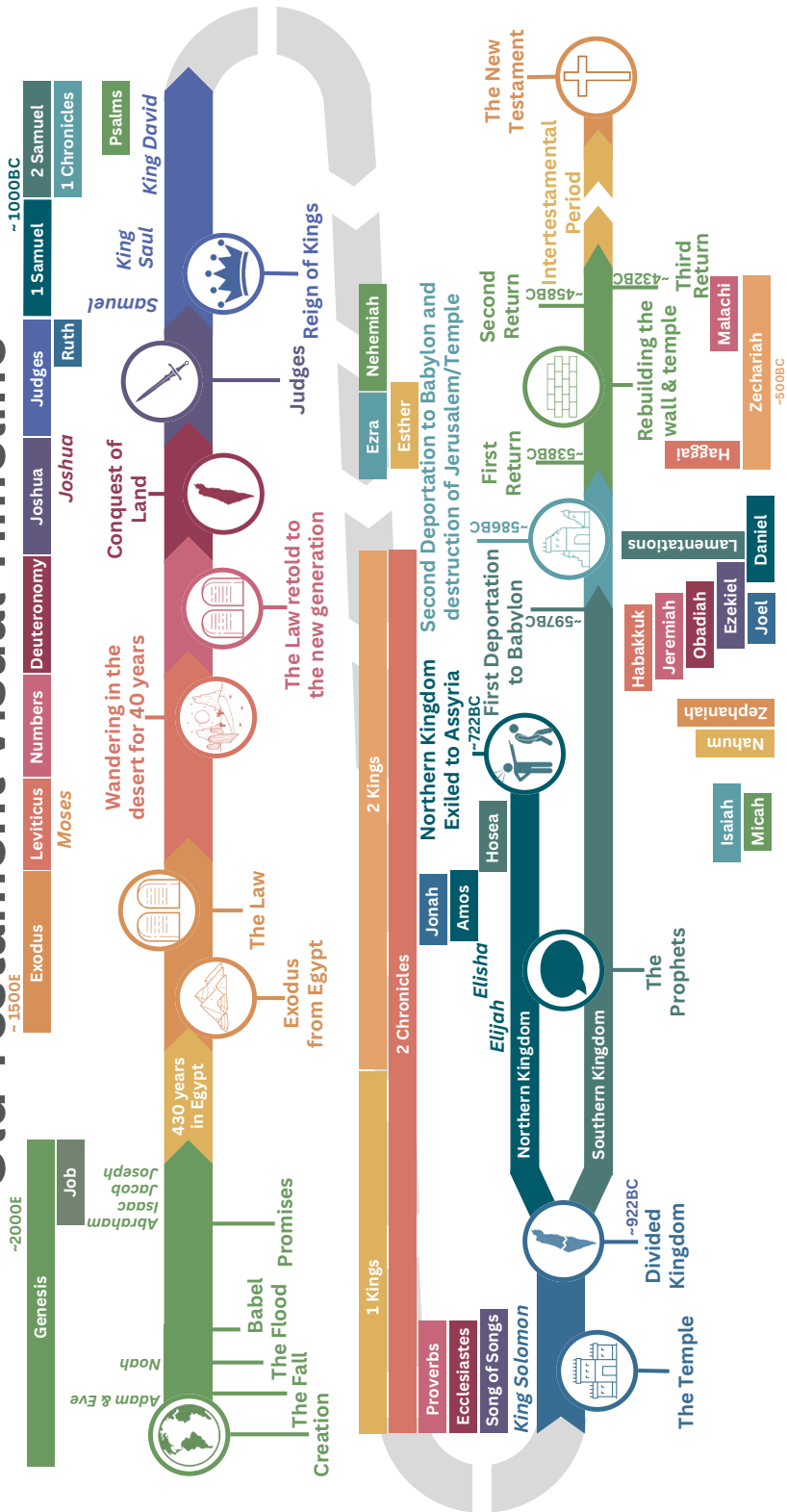
FEBRUARY 27

Reading 1 Corinthians 13-14 | Love; gifts of prophecy and tongues

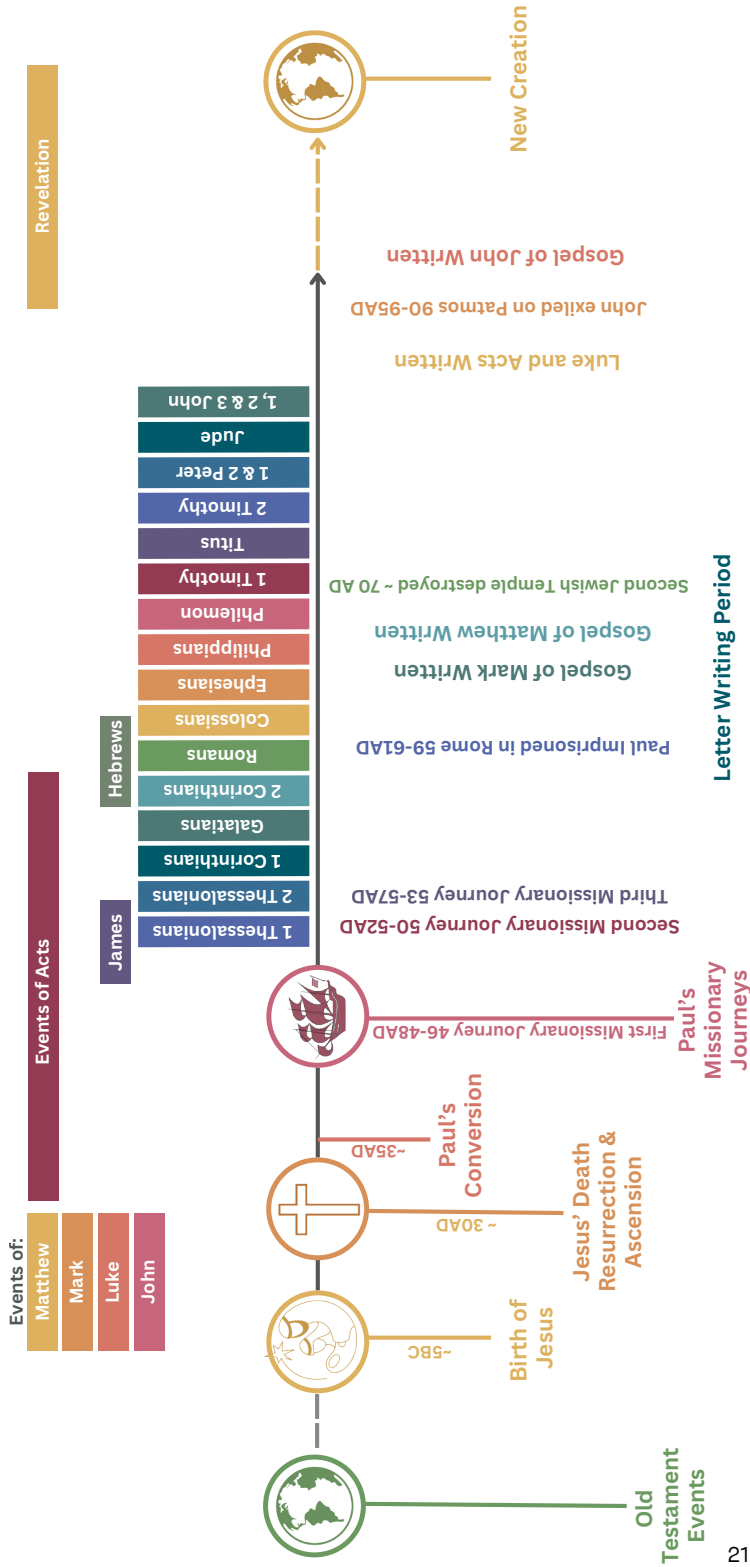
FEBRUARY 28

Reading 1 Corinthians 15-16 | Resurrection; final instructions

Old Testament Visual Timeline



New Testament Graphic Timeline



NOTES

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]



CHURCH
— OF THE —
LAKES