



THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 4
THE KINGS

NOVEMBER 2 – DECEMBER 6, 2025

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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NOVEMBER 2, 2025

THE JUDGES: SAMUEL

BIBLE BASIS:

1 Samuel 7

KEY VERSE:

Psalms 18:6

BIG IDEA:

God hears our prayers, so we
can call out to Him for help
and forgiveness.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

THE JUDGES: SAMUEL - GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever faced a situation where you felt helpless and had no choice but to ask God for help? How did He respond?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- 1 Samuel 7 (NIV)
- Psalm 18:6 (NIV): "In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

MAIN POINTS:

1. God Calls His People to Return to Him (1 Samuel 7:3-4)
2. Genuine Repentance Leads to God's Intervention (1 Samuel 7:5-11)
3. God Responds to the Prayers of His People (1 Samuel 7:9, Psalm 18:6)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When was a time you needed to seek God's help and forgiveness? How did you feel before you prayed?
2. According to 1 Samuel 7, what was Samuel's instruction to the people, and why was it important?
3. What practical steps can you take to ensure you are turning to God first in times of trouble or temptation?
4. As a group, how might we encourage one another to call out to God—both individually and collectively?
5. How can you grow in your trust that God really hears and responds to your prayers?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God desires a restored relationship with us and longs for repentance.
2. No situation is too hopeless for God to intervene when we humbly call out to Him.
3. Sincere prayer brings God's help, both in forgiveness and deliverance.
4. God hears every prayer—He is never distant or uninterested.
5. Our response to God's faithfulness should be worship and remembrance, just like Samuel set up the Ebenezer stone.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify a personal need or area of struggle, and intentionally bring it to God in prayer this week.
2. Memorize Psalm 18:6 (NIV) as a reminder that God hears your cries.
3. Pair up with someone in the group for accountability in praying for one another's needs
4. Set aside time for daily prayer, asking God for help and forgiveness, and listening for His guidance.
5. Look for ways your group can serve or support others in your community who are in need of encouragement or prayer.

WEEK 14

NOVEMBER 3

Reading 1 Samuel 19-20 - David and Jonathan

NOVEMBER 4

Reading 1 Samuel 21-23 - David flees

NOVEMBER 5

Reading 1 Samuel 24-26 - David spares Saul

-

NOVEMBER 6

Reading 1 Samuel 27-29 - David among Philistines

NOVEMBER 7

Reading 1 Samuel 30-31 - Saul's death

NOVEMBER 8

Reading 2 Samuel 1-2 - David becomes king

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

DAVID IS ANOINTED KING

BIBLE BASIS:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

KEY VERSE:

1 Samuel 16:7b

BIG IDEA:

God sees what's in our heart,
so we should seek to be
beautiful on the inside.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DAVID IS ANOINTED KING

OPENING QUESTION:

Think of a time when someone misjudged you based on your appearance or first impression. How did it make you feel, and did it affect your actions?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NIV)
- Key Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV): "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

MAIN POINTS:

1. God chooses differently than people do—He looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.
2. God can use unexpected people to accomplish His purposes.
3. We should prioritize growing inner character that honors God, not just outward appearances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does knowing that God looks at our heart change the way you view yourself and others?
2. Why do you think God chose David, the youngest and least likely of Jesse's sons, to be king?
3. What are some practical ways we can focus on being beautiful on the inside rather than the outside?
4. Share about someone you know who reflects God's heart—what qualities stand out?
5. What is one area of your heart or character that you feel God is asking you to grow in this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God values our inner character over our outward appearance.
2. Each person, no matter how overlooked by others, has value to God.
3. Our hearts need to be aligned with God's desires.
4. Outer success or appearance doesn't impress God—our motives and integrity do.
5. We can seek God's help to grow in areas of our heart where we fall short.

NEXT STEPS:

1. This week, do one thing to encourage or uplift someone whose good qualities may be overlooked.
2. Memorize 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV) and reflect on it daily
3. Share with your group or a trusted friend an area of your character you'd like accountability with.
4. Spend intentional time in prayer each day, asking God to search your heart and reveal any areas needing change.
5. Look for ways to honor the "inward beauty" in people at work, home, or community and let them know you see it.

WEEK 15

NOVEMBER 10

Reading 2 Samuel 3-4 - Civil war

NOVEMBER 11

Reading 2 Samuel 5-7 - David's kingdom

NOVEMBER 12

Reading 2 Samuel 8-10 - David's victories

NOVEMBER 13

Reading 2 Samuel 11-12 – David and Bathsheba

NOVEMBER 14

Reading 2 Samuel 13-16 – Family troubles

NOVEMBER 15

Reading 2 Samuel 17-18 – Absalom's death

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

DAVID FIGHTS GOLIATH

BIBLE BASIS:

1 Samuel 17

KEY VERSE:

Isaiah 41:10a

BIG IDEA:

God is with us and gives us
strength, so we can stand up
to our fears.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DAVID FIGHTS GOLIATH - STANDING UP TO OUR FEARS

OPENING QUESTION:

What is one fear or challenge you've faced recently? How did you react, and what did you learn from it?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- 1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath)
- Isaiah 41:10a (NIV): "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."

MAIN POINTS:

1. David trusted in God's presence and strength rather than his own abilities.
2. God's faithfulness in David's past (with the lion and the bear) built his confidence to face Goliath.
3. God's presence empowers us to stand up to our biggest fears.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you felt like "David"—facing a challenge that seemed too big for you?
2. What does David's declaration to Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV) reveal about his faith?
3. In what practical ways can you rely on God when you're facing something scary or difficult?
4. How can we support each other as a group when we face "giants" in our lives?
5. Where is God asking you to trust Him with a fear or obstacle this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's strength, not our size or skill, is what matters in life's battles.
2. Remembering God's faithfulness helps us face new challenges.
3. Faith-filled actions—like David's—come from a deep confidence in God.
4. We are not alone; God promises His presence (Isaiah 41:10a NIV).
5. Our "giants" become opportunities to show God's power.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Identify one fear or challenge this week and intentionally pray about it, asking God for strength.
2. Memorize Isaiah 41:10a (NIV) and recite it when you feel afraid.
3. Pair up with another group member for encouragement and accountability.
4. Spend time each day thanking God for past victories—big or small.
5. Look for someone in your community (school, work, neighborhood) who needs encouragement and offer support, inspired by David's courage.

WEEK 16

NOVEMBER 17

Reading 2 Samuel 19-20 - David returns

NOVEMBER 18

Reading 2 Samuel 21-22 - David's song

NOVEMBER 19

Reading 2 Samuel 23-24 - David's last words

NOVEMBER 20

Reading 1 Kings 1-3 - Solomon's reign begins

NOVEMBER 21

Reading 1 Kings 4-6 - Temple construction

NOVEMBER 22

Reading 1 Kings 7-9 - Temple dedication

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

BIBLE BASIS:

1 Samuel 23-24, 26, 31

KEY VERSE:

1 Thess. 5:15

BIG IDEA:

God is just, so we can refrain from taking revenge on others.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

OPENING QUESTION:

Share about a time when you were tempted to get back at someone who hurt or wronged you. How did you handle it?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- 1 Samuel 23-24
- 1 Samuel 26
- 1 Samuel 31
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV) – "15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."

MAIN POINTS:

1. David had opportunities to take revenge on Saul but chose restraint.
2. David trusted God to bring justice rather than taking matters into his own hands
3. We are called to refrain from revenge and pursue good toward others, just as God commands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When has it been difficult for you to forgive someone or to let go of a desire for revenge?
2. What stands out to you about David's interactions with Saul in these chapters?
3. How can we practically resist the urge to pay back someone who has wronged us?
4. What might our group or community look like if we lived out 1 Thessalonians 5:15 wholeheartedly?
5. What step can you take this week to display God's grace instead of seeking revenge, even in a small way?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's justice allows us to release our need for personal revenge.
2. Choosing restraint brings God's blessing and protection.
3. Trusting God with justice strengthens our faith in His goodness.
4. Pursuing good for others reflects Christ's love in practical ways.
5. Forgiveness and grace are powerful witnesses to God's character.

NEXT STEPS:

1. This week, choose to forgive someone instead of getting even—pray for them by name.
2. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NIV): "15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."
3. Check in with a group member about how you're handling difficult relationships—encourage and pray for one another.
4. Set aside time daily to pray for those who have hurt you, asking God to work in your heart.
5. Look for an opportunity to do good to someone who has mistreated you or has been hard to love.

WEEK 17

NOVEMBER 24

Reading 1 Kings 10-12 - Kingdom divides

NOVEMBER 25

Reading 1 Kings 13-15 - Divided kingdom

NOVEMBER 26

Reading 1 Kings 16-18 - Elijah and Ahab

NOVEMBER 27

Reading 1 Kings 19-20 - Elijah at Horeb

NOVEMBER 28

Reading 1 Kings 21-22 - Ahab's downfall

NOVEMBER 29

Reading 2 Kings 24:1-20; 25:1-21 - Fall of Jerusalem and exile (Background)

DAVID SINS

BIBLE BASIS:

2 Samuel 11

KEY VERSE:

Psalms 103:12

BIG IDEA:

God is merciful, so we can go to Him for forgiveness.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DAVID'S SIN AND GOD'S MERCY

OPENING QUESTION:

Can you think of a time when you made a mistake but were given a second chance? How did that impact you?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- 2 Samuel 11 (David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah)
- Psalm 103:12 (God's forgiveness and mercy)

MAIN POINTS:

1. David made serious mistakes, but his story doesn't end there.
2. God's mercy is greater than our biggest failures.
3. Because of God's forgiveness, we can always return to Him no matter what we've done.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you relate to David's experience of making a big mistake?
2. What stands out to you about David's response after his sin is confronted?
3. How does knowing God is merciful affect the way you respond to your own failures?
4. What can our group learn from David's journey about being honest with God?
5. What is one area where you need to experience or extend mercy this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. No one is immune to making mistakes—even those after God's own heart.
2. God's forgiveness is complete and not based on our performance.
3. 12) "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12 NIV)
4. Honest confession is the first step toward healing and restoration.
5. God wants us to come to Him with our failures, not hide them.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Take time to honestly confess anything weighing on your heart to God this week.
2. Memorize Psalm 103:12 as a reminder of God's forgiveness.
3. Share with a trusted friend or group member an area where you need accountability.
4. Spend time in prayer thanking God for His mercy and seeking forgiveness where needed.
5. Look for an opportunity to show mercy to someone in your family, workplace, or community.

WEEK 18

DECEMBER 1

Reading 2 Kings 25:22-30 - Aftermath of exile

DECEMBER 2

Reading 1 Chronicles - Bible Project



DECEMBER 3

Reading Ezra 1:1-11; 2:1-35 - Cyrus decree; First returnees

DECEMBER 4

Reading Ezra 2:36-70; 3:1-13 - Temple foundation laid

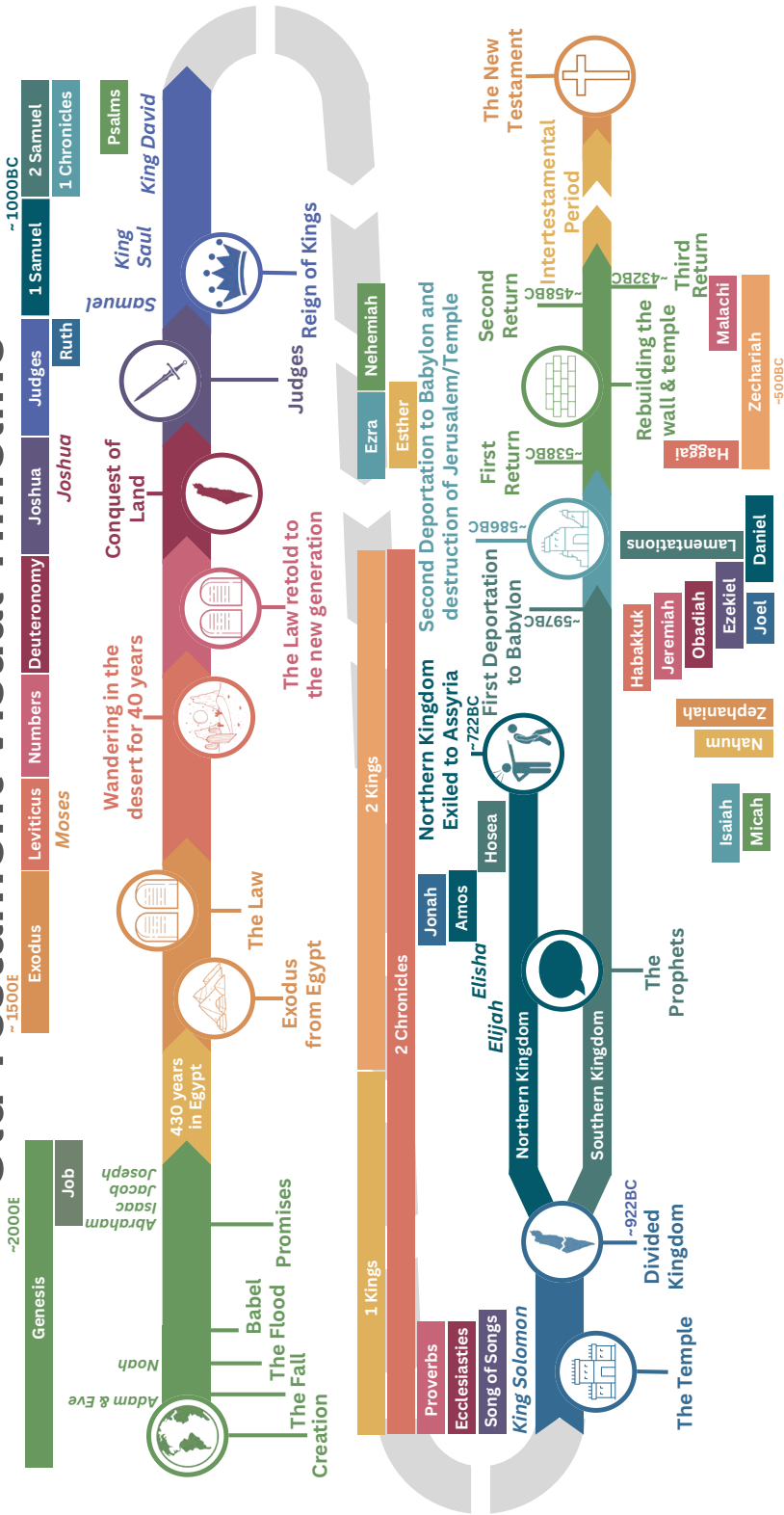
DECEMBER 5

Reading Ezra 4:1-24 - Opposition to rebuilding

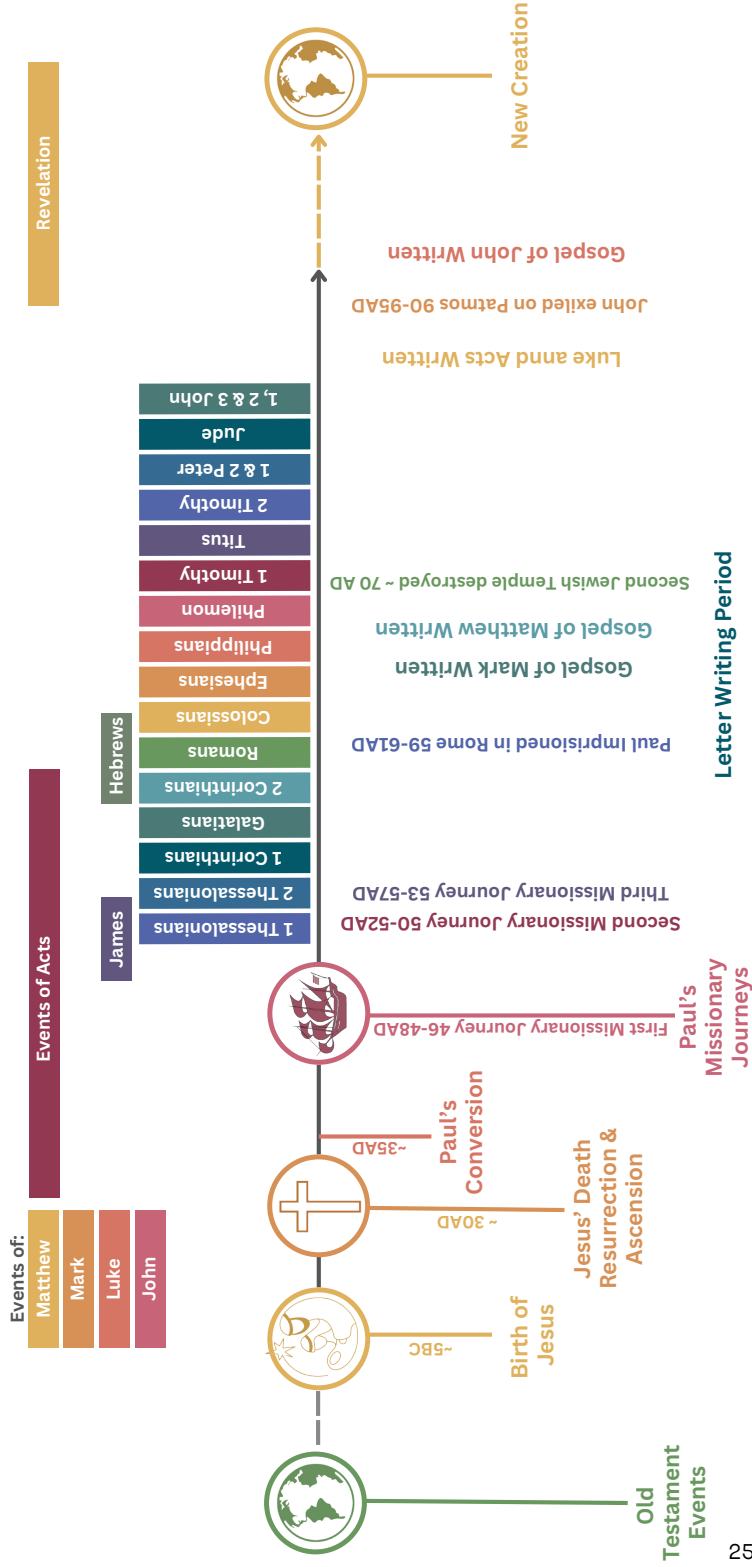
DECEMBER 6

Reading Ezra 5:1-17; 6:1-12 - Temple work resumed

Old Testament Visual Timeline



New Testament Graphic Timeline



NOTES



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