



THE GRAND NARRATIVE

EPOCH 2
LAWS & BLESSINGS

SEPTEMBER 7 – OCTOBER 4, 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

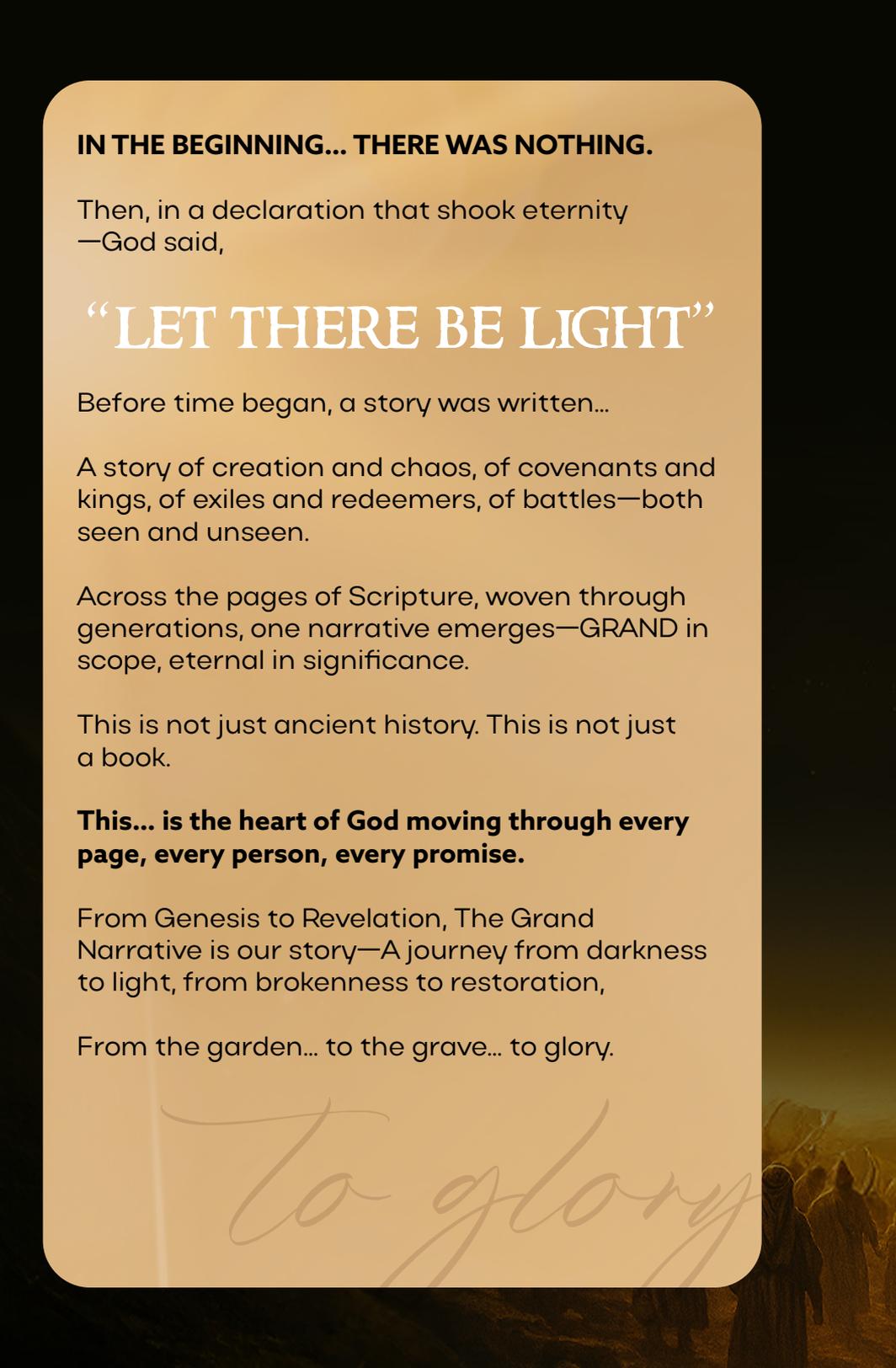
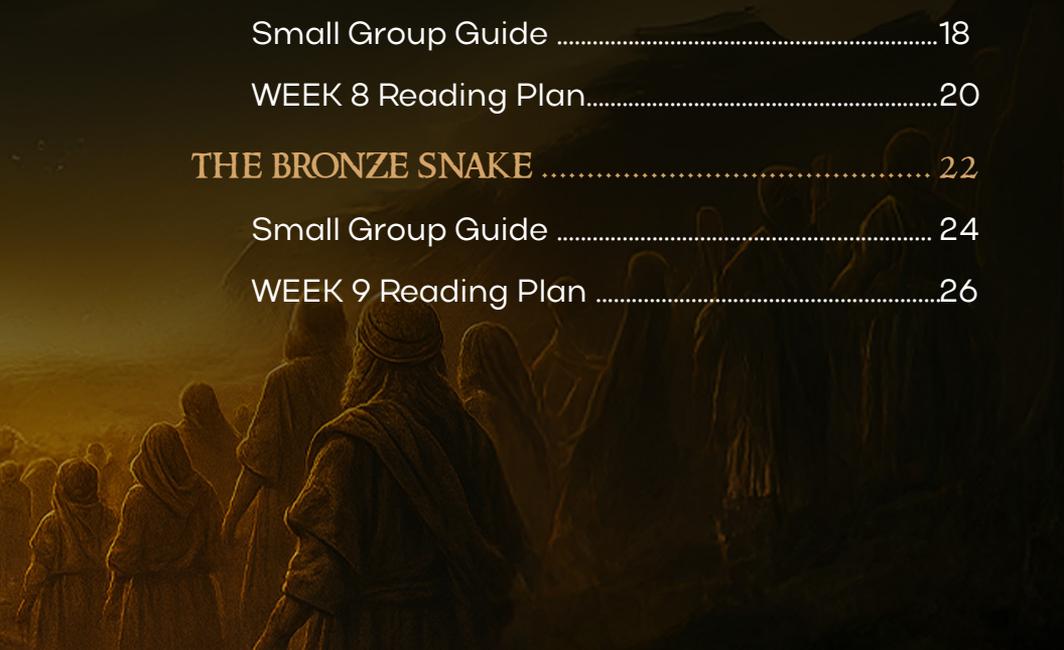


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SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

BIBLE BASIS:

Exodus 19:1-20:11

KEY VERSE:

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'

Luke 10:27a



BIG IDEA:

The Ten Commandments show us how to love God.

SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPENING QUESTION:

What do you think it looks like to truly “love God” in your everyday life?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Exodus 19:1–20:11
 - Luke 10:27a
-

MAIN POINTS:

1. God desires relationship first—His laws flow from His love.
2. The first four commandments show us how to honor God.
3. Loving God means putting Him above everything else.
4. God’s holiness requires reverence, worship, and obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Why did God reveal Himself with such power at Mount Sinai before giving the commandments?
2. How do the first four commandments help us define love for God?
3. In what ways does observing the Sabbath honor God today?
4. How does obedience grow our intimacy with God?
5. Which of the four commandments do you personally find most challenging, and why?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's commands are rooted in His desire for a loving relationship with us.
2. Loving God means giving Him our full attention, loyalty, and reverence.
3. Worship and rest are not optional—they're ways we love God back.

WEEK 6

SEPTEMBER 8

Reading Exodus 7-8: First Plagues

Theme *God reveals His power over false gods and calls us to trust Him.*

Prayer Focus Pray for hearts that recognize and respond to God's authority.

SEPTEMBER 9

Reading Exodus 9-10: More Plagues

Theme *God's justice increases when His mercy is rejected.*

Prayer Focus Pray for a humble heart that yields quickly to God's direction.

SEPTEMBER 10

Reading Exodus 11-12: Passover and Exodus

Theme *God provides protection and deliverance through the blood of the lamb.*

Prayer Focus Thank Jesus for being our perfect sacrifice and pray for deeper gratitude for salvation.

SEPTEMBER 11

Reading Exodus 13–14: Red Sea Crossing

Theme *God makes a way when there seems to be no way.*

Prayer Focus Pray for faith to trust God's leading, even through impossible situations.

SEPTEMBER 12

Reading Exodus 15–16: Victory Song & Manna

Theme *God is worthy of praise and provides for our daily needs.*

Prayer Focus Thank God for His past faithfulness and daily provision.

SEPTEMBER 13

Reading Exodus 17–18: Water from the Rock & Jethro's Advice

Theme *God refreshes the weary and gives wisdom for healthy leadership.*

Prayer Focus Pray for spiritual renewal and wisdom in leading and serving others.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: PART 2

BIBLE BASIS:

Exodus 20:12-21; 32:1-35

KEY VERSE:

and, 'Love your neighbor
as yourself.'
Luke 10:27b



BIG IDEA:

The Ten Commandments show us
how to love others.

SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPENING QUESTION:

What's the difference between being nice to someone and truly loving them like God commands?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Exodus 20:12–21
 - Exodus 32:1–35
 - Luke 10:27b
-

MAIN POINTS:

1. The last six commandments focus on our relationships with others.
2. Obedience builds trust and peace within families and society.
3. Sin distorts relationships, but God offers grace.
4. Loving others means respecting their lives, boundaries, and property.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. What does honoring parents teach us about building healthy relationships?
2. What are the relational consequences of breaking one of the last six commandments?
3. How does Exodus 32 show the damage caused by a lack of spiritual leadership?
4. What is the link between loving God and loving others?
5. How can you love a difficult person in your life more intentionally this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Loving others is an act of worship when done God's way.
2. The Ten Commandments remain relevant to our relationships today.
3. Grace restores what sin damages in community and connection.

WEEK 7

SEPTEMBER 15

- Reading** Exodus 19–20: Ten Commandments
- Theme** *God gives His law to show how we are to love Him and others.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for hearts that delight in God's commands and reflect His holiness.

SEPTEMBER 16

- Reading** Exodus 21–23: Book of the Covenant
- Theme** *God cares about justice, compassion, and community life.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for wisdom to live out God's justice and mercy in everyday relationships.

SEPTEMBER 17

- Reading** Exodus 24–25: Covenant Confirmed
- Theme** *God calls His people into covenant relationship and prepares a place to dwell among them.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for a deeper commitment to God's covenant and presence.

SEPTEMBER 18

- Reading** Exodus 26–27: Tabernacle Design
- Theme** *God desires worship that is prepared, intentional, and holy.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for a heart that honors God's presence with reverence and awe.

SEPTEMBER 19

- Reading** Exodus 28–29: Priesthood Consecration
- Theme** *God sets apart leaders to serve Him and represent His people.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for spiritual leaders to walk in purity, humility, and power.

SEPTEMBER 20

- Reading** Exodus 30–31: Altar and Offerings
- Theme** *God invites us into worship through sacrifice, prayer, and obedience.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for worship that is sincere, sacrificial, and Spirit-led.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

12 SPIES EXPLORE CANAAN

BIBLE BASIS:

Numbers 13:1-14:10

KEY VERSE:

For the Spirit God gave us does not
make us timid, but gives us power,
love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7



BIG IDEA:

God gives us a spirit of power,
so we can have the courage to
follow Him anywhere.

SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPENING QUESTION:

When have you felt scared to follow God's lead, but did it anyway?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Numbers 13:1–14:10
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
-

MAIN POINTS:

1. God's promises are bigger than our problems.
2. Courage grows when we remember who God is.
3. Fear spreads quickly, but so does faith.
4. God honors those who remain hopeful and obedient.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. What made Joshua and Caleb's perspective on Canaan different from the other spies?
2. How has fear ever "infected" a group or a goal in your life?
3. Where do you hear God calling you to take a courageous next step?
4. What does 2 Timothy 1:7 teach you about the Holy Spirit's role in your life?
5. How can our faith inspire others in fearful situations?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's Spirit empowers us to choose faith over fear.
2. Small acts of faith can lead to big movements of God.
3. Courage isn't the absence of fear—it's obedience despite fear.

WEEK 8

SEPTEMBER 22

Reading Exodus 32–33: Golden Calf

Theme *God is faithful even when His people turn away.*

Prayer Focus Pray for repentance and renewed devotion to God alone.

SEPTEMBER 23

Reading Exodus 34–35: New Tablets

Theme *God restores covenant relationship and calls for wholehearted worship.*

Prayer Focus Pray for a fresh start in areas where you've drifted from God's ways.

SEPTEMBER 24

Reading Exodus 36–37: Tabernacle Construction

Theme *God's people joyfully give their best to create space for His presence.*

Prayer Focus Pray for a willing heart to serve and give toward God's purposes.

SEPTEMBER 25

Reading Exodus 38–40: Tabernacle Completed

Theme *When God's instructions are followed, His glory fills the space.*

Prayer Focus Pray for God's presence to dwell richly in your life and community.

SEPTEMBER 26

Reading Numbers (Bible Project Resource)

Theme *God leads His people through wilderness seasons with purpose.*

Prayer Focus Pray for trust and endurance as God guides you through uncertain places.



SEPTEMBER 27

Reading Deuteronomy (Bible Project Resource)

Theme *God calls His people to remember, obey, and choose life in Him.*

Prayer Focus Pray for a heart that remembers God's faithfulness and walks in obedience.



SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

THE BRONZE SNAKE

BIBLE BASIS:

Numbers 21:1-9

KEY VERSE:

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,[a] 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

John 3:14-15



BIG IDEA:

God is merciful and has lifted His Son upon a cross so that we might be saved from death.

SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

OPENING QUESTION:

When did you realize your need for God's mercy for the first time?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

- Numbers 21:1–9
 - John 3:14–15
-

MAIN POINTS:

1. Sin brings consequences, but God always makes a way of mercy.
2. Looking to the bronze serpent was an act of trust and obedience.
3. Jesus is the ultimate “lifted up” Savior for our salvation.
4. Healing happens through simple, faith-filled surrender.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

1. Why did God use a bronze snake as a symbol of healing instead of removing the snakes?
2. How does this story foreshadow Jesus' crucifixion?
3. What does it look like for people today to "look to Jesus"?
4. What are some areas in your life that need God's healing or mercy right now?
5. How would you explain God's mercy in this story to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. God's mercy is available even when we sin and rebel.
2. Looking to Jesus in faith leads to spiritual healing and eternal life.
3. Mercy doesn't remove consequences but offers redemption through Christ.

WEEK 9

SEPTEMBER 29

- Reading** Joshua 1–2: Joshua Leads; Rahab
- Theme** *God calls courageous leaders and uses unexpected people for His purposes.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for boldness to step into God's calling and an open heart to see His work through others.

SEPTEMBER 30

- Reading** Joshua 3–4: Crossing the Jordan
- Theme** *God makes a way when we follow Him in faith.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for faith to take bold steps of obedience and remember God's faithfulness..

OCTOBER 1

- Reading** Joshua 5–6: Jericho Falls
- Theme** *God brings victory through obedience, not human strength.*
- Prayer Focus** Pray for a heart that trusts God's timing and follows His unconventional ways.

OCTOBER 2

Reading Joshua 7–8: Ai Defeated

Theme *Hidden sin hinders victory, but repentance restores God's blessing.*

Prayer Focus Pray for God to reveal and remove anything hindering His work in your life.

OCTOBER 3

Reading Joshua 9–10: Gibeonite Treaty

Theme *God shows grace even when we fail to seek His guidance.*

Prayer Focus Pray for discernment in decisions and trust in God's ability to redeem your mistakes.

OCTOBER 4

Reading Joshua 11–12: Northern Conquest

Theme *God is faithful to fulfill every promise as His people walk in obedience..*

Prayer Focus Pray for strength to persevere in the promises God has made



CHURCH
— OF THE —
LAKES

