

APRIL 5 - MAY 2, 2026



THE GRAND  
NARRATIVE  
EPOCH 9  
RECONCILIATION

## **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 IS ALIVE (EASTER WEEKEND).....	4
Small Group Guide .....	4
WEEK 36 Reading Plan .....	6
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.....	8
Small Group Guide .....	8
WEEK 37 Reading Plan .....	10
SAUL SEES THE LIGHT.....	12
Small Group Guide .....	12
WEEK 38 Reading Plan.....	14
PAUL'S GREAT ESCAPE.....	16
Small Group Guide .....	16
WEEK 39 Reading Plan .....	18
OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE .....	20
NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE .....	21

APRIL 5, 2026

# JESUS IS ALIVE (EASTER WEEKEND)

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Matthew 27:27-28:10

## **KEY VERSE:**

Ephesians 2:5

## **BIG IDEA:**

Jesus rose from the dead, so I can find a new life in Him.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### JESUS IS ALIVE

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

What's something in your life that felt hopeless or at a dead end—and then, unexpectedly, things turned around? How did that experience shape you?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Matthew 27:27-28:10 (NIV)
- Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): [5] "Made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

## **MAIN POINTS:**

1. Jesus endured immense suffering, crucifixion, and death for us.
2. Jesus rose powerfully from the grave, defeating sin and death.
3. Because Jesus is alive, we can experience a brand new life through Him.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. When you read the resurrection account in Matthew 28, what stands out to you most about Jesus' victory over death?
2. According to Ephesians 2:5, how does God's grace change our spiritual situation?
3. In what ways does knowing Jesus defeated death give you hope for areas of your life that feel "dead" or hopeless?
4. As a community, how can we help each other experience and share the "new life" Jesus offers?
5. Is there an area of your life right now where you need to trust that Jesus can bring newness and resurrection?

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

1. Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of our Christian faith and our hope for new life.
2. God's grace, not our performance, is what brings us from spiritual death to life.
3. The resurrection means that no situation is too dead for God to redeem and restore.
4. Through faith in Jesus, we are invited to live differently—transformed, forgiven, and empowered.
5. Our experience of new life motivates us to share hope and serve others in His name.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

1. Reflect this week: Where do you need Jesus to bring resurrection life? Pray specifically for those areas.
2. Memorize Ephesians 2:5 (NIV) and consider its meaning for your relationship with God.
3. Pair up with another group member and check in midweek to encourage each other in pursuing new life in Christ.
4. Make daily space for gratitude—thank God each day that Jesus is alive and working in your story.
5. Be intentional to reach out and offer hope or forgiveness to someone in your life who needs to hear about Jesus' resurrection power.

# WEEK 36

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## APRIL 6

**Reading** 2 Peter 1-3 | Growth in faith; false teachers; day of Lord

## APRIL 7

**Reading** Hebrews 1-2 | Superior to angels; pay attention

## APRIL 8

**Reading** Hebrews 3-4 | Greater than Moses; entering rest

## APRIL 9

**Reading** Hebrews 5-6 | Christ as high priest; press on

## APRIL 10

**Reading** Hebrews 7-8 | Melchizedek; new covenant

## APRIL 11

**Reading** Hebrews 9-10 | Christ's sacrifice; draw near

APRIL 12, 2026

# THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Matthew 7:7-12;  
Matthew 13:44

## **KEY VERSE:**

Matthew 7:7

## **BIG IDEA:**

God promises eternal life to those who seek and find Him.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Can you share about a time when you received a second chance at something important to you? How did it feel to begin again?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Matthew 27:27–28:10 (NIV)
- Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

## **MAIN POINTS:**

1. Jesus willingly endured suffering, death, and burial for us.
2. On the third day, Jesus rose victoriously from the dead.
3. Because Jesus is alive, we are offered new life and hope through Him.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Reflecting on Matthew 28:1-10, what emotions do you think the followers of Jesus felt at discovering the empty tomb?
2. Ephesians 2:5 says we are "made alive with Christ." What does that mean to you personally?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection give you perspective during difficult seasons or setbacks?
4. What are some practical ways our group can encourage one another to live out this new life in Christ?
5. Where in your life are you needing a "resurrection moment"—a place for Jesus to bring new life or hope?

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

1. Jesus' resurrection confirms that God's power is greater than sin, death, and our failures.
2. New life is available to anyone—no matter their past—because of God's grace in Jesus.
3. Our identity is changed: we are raised with Christ and no longer defined by our mistakes.
4. Jesus' victory frees us to live with hope, courage, and purpose every day.
5. Living the resurrected life means sharing that hope and love with those around us.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

1. Personally pray this week, asking Jesus to bring new life into any area where you feel stuck or discouraged.
2. Memorize Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
3. Form groups of two or three to check in and encourage each other to walk in newness of life this week.]
4. Spend time daily thanking God for Jesus' resurrection and for the life He brings.
5. Look for an opportunity to share the hope of the resurrection—through kindness, your story, or an invitation to church—with someone in your community.

# WEEK 37

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## APRIL 13

**Reading** Hebrews 11-13 | Faith; discipline; concluding exhortations

## APRIL 14

**Reading** Jude | Contend for the faith

## APRIL 15

**Reading** 1 John 1-2 | Walk in light; love not world

## **APRIL 16**

**Reading** 1 John 3-4 | Children of God; test the spirits

## **APRIL 17**

**Reading** 1 John 5 | Overcoming the world

## **APRIL 18**

**Reading** 2 John | Walking in truth and love

APRIL 19, 2026

# SAUL SEES THE LIGHT

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Acts 9:1-19

## **KEY VERSE:**

2 Corinthians 5:17

## **BIG IDEA:**

Jesus changes our heart, so we're a new creation when we follow Him.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### SAUL SEES THE LIGHT

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Have you ever experienced something in your life that brought unexpected hope or a fresh start? How did that change your perspective?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Matthew 27:27-28:10 (NIV)
- Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): [5] "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

## **MAIN POINTS:**

1. Jesus experienced suffering, crucifixion, and death.
2. Jesus was raised from the dead, overcoming sin and death.
3. In Christ's resurrection, we are invited to discover a new life through Him.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. When you read through the resurrection account in Matthew, what details stand out to you about Jesus' suffering and victory?
2. Ephesians 2:5 says we've been "made alive with Christ." What do you think that means for our day-to-day lives?
3. How does knowing Jesus rose from the dead offer you hope for areas in your life that feel "stuck" or "dead"?
4. How can we, as a group, support and encourage one another to live this "new life" in Christ?
5. Is there a part of your life where you need to invite Jesus to bring newness and resurrection today?

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

1. Jesus' resurrection gives us hope that no situation is beyond God's transforming power.
2. New life in Jesus is a gift of grace, not something we can earn on our own.
3. Because Jesus is alive, our past does not define us—He offers us a fresh start.
4. The resurrection changes the way we face challenges, empowering us with new purpose and courage.
5. We are called to share the hope of new life in Jesus with others through our words and actions.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

1. Spend time this week asking God to reveal areas where He wants to bring new life in you.
2. Memorize Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
3. Pair up with a group member to check in and pray together for new life and hope.
4. Set aside time for daily gratitude, specifically thanking Jesus for His resurrection power in your life.
5. Look for a way this week to encourage someone outside your group by sharing or reflecting the hope you have in Jesus.

# WEEK 38

## APRIL 20

**Reading** 3 John | Support for teachers

## APRIL 21

**Reading** Revelation – Bible Project



## APRIL 22

**Reading** Revelation 1 | Vision of Christ; seven churches

## APRIL 23

**Reading** Revelation 2 | Vision of Christ; seven churches

## APRIL 24

**Reading** Revelation 3 | More churches; throne room

## APRIL 25

**Reading** Revelation 4 | More churches; throne room

APRIL 26, 2026

# PAUL'S GREAT ESCAPE

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

Acts 9:19–31

## **KEY VERSE:**

Acts 1:8

## **BIG IDEA:**

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to boldly tell others about the good news of Jesus.

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### PAUL'S GREAT ESCAPE

## **OPENING QUESTION:**

Have you ever witnessed something or someone make an amazing comeback after a loss or setback? How did that impact the way you view second chances?

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

- Matthew 27:27–28:10 (NIV)
- Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): [5] "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

## **MAIN POINTS:**

1. Jesus willingly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried.
2. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin and death.
3. Because Jesus is alive, anyone can discover a brand new life in Him.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What part of the resurrection story in Matthew 27:27–28:10 most powerfully speaks to you this week?
2. According to Ephesians 2:5, what does it mean to be "made alive with Christ," and why is grace so important in this process?
3. How does the reality that Jesus is alive influence your daily life, struggles, or relationships?
4. What are some ways our group can practically walk in "new life" together?
5. Where do you personally need a "new beginning" that only the risen Jesus can bring?

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

1. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation for our hope—He has defeated both sin and death.
2. New life isn't found through religion or effort but through the grace given by Jesus' resurrection.
3. Every follower of Jesus has access to a fresh start, no matter their past failures.
4. Knowing Jesus is alive gives us courage and power to face daily challenges with renewed perspective.
5. As recipients of new life, we are called to spread hope and truth to others.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

1. Spend time in prayer this week asking Jesus to bring new life to any area where you need renewal.
2. Memorize Ephesians 2:5 (NIV): "made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
3. Connect with a partner from the group to share struggles and encourage each other about areas of "new life."
4. Begin a daily practice of gratitude for Jesus' resurrection and jot down ways you see His life at work in you.
5. Look for an opportunity to invite a friend or family member into a conversation about the hope you have in Jesus.

# WEEK 39

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## APRIL 27

**Reading** Revelation 5 | The Scroll and the Lamb

## APRIL 28

**Reading** Revelation 6 | Seals and Trumpets

## APRIL 29

**Reading** Revelation 7 | Seals and Trumpets

## APRIL 30

**Reading** Revelation 8 | Seals and Trumpets

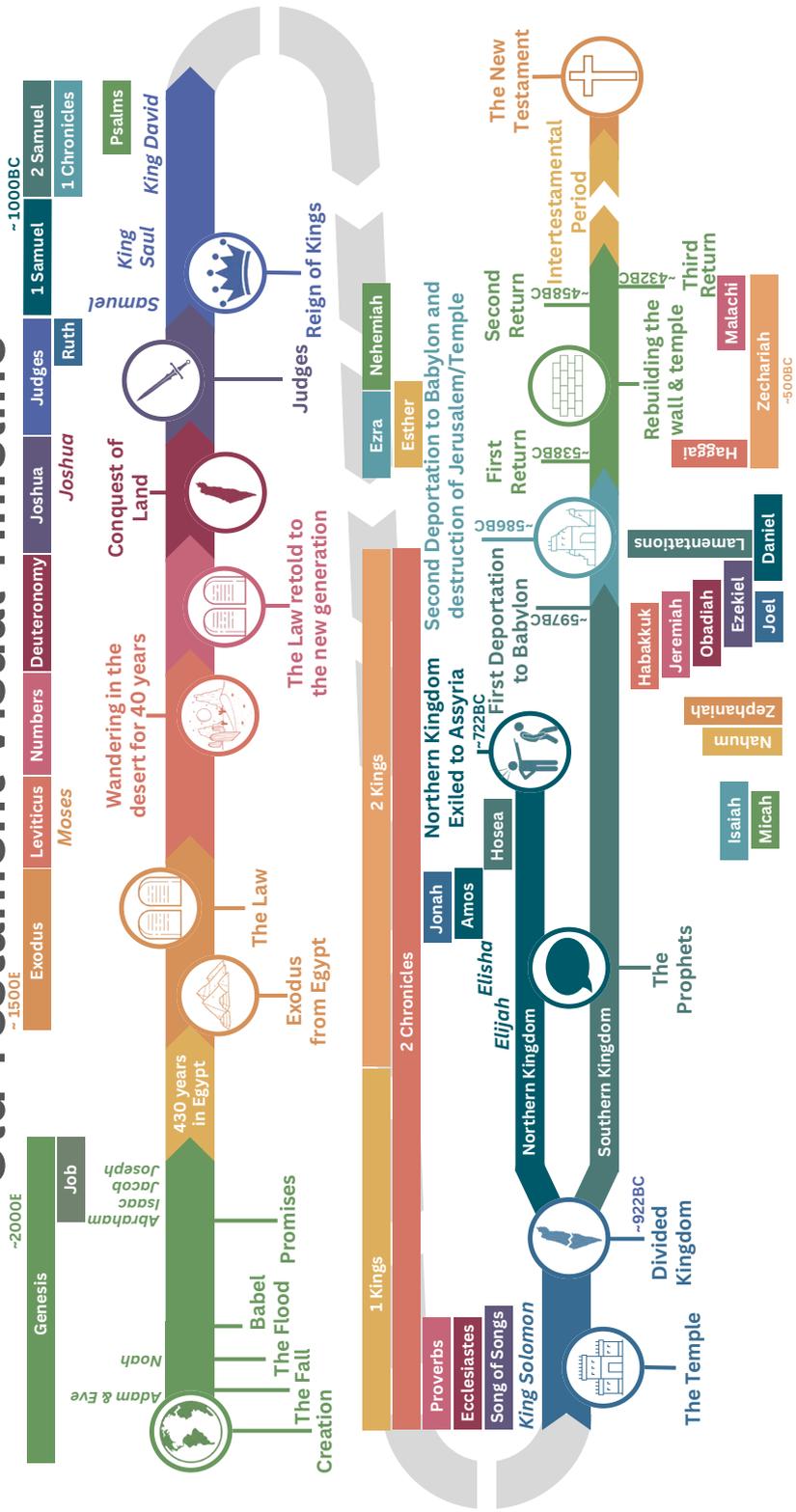
## MAY 1

**Reading** Revelation 9 | Seals and Trumpets

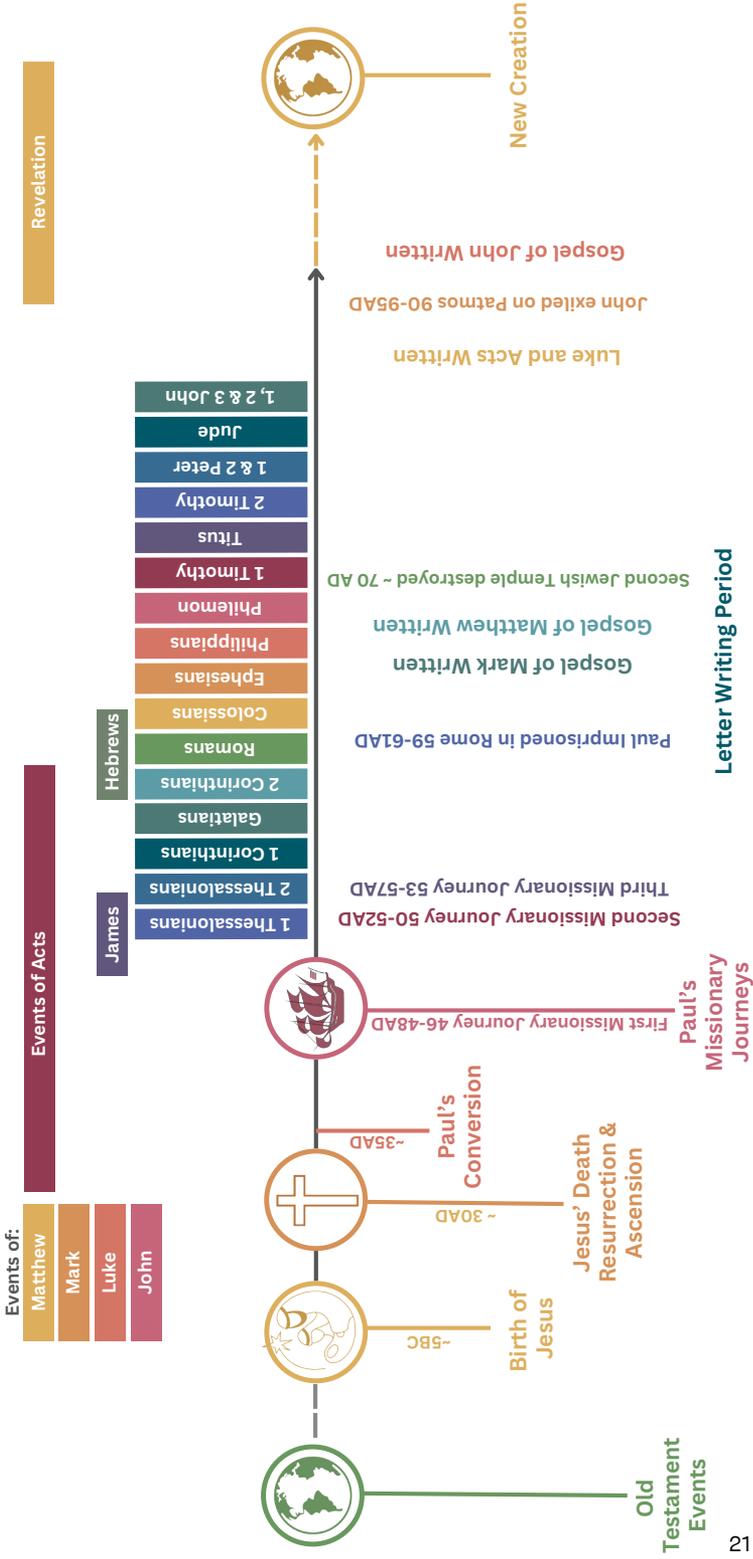
## MAY 2

**Reading** Revelation 10 | Seals and Trumpets

# Old Testament Visual Timeline



# New Testament Graphic Timeline



# NOTES





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LAKES