



GROWTH GUIDE

Weekend Message

All Campuses | December 27–28, 2025

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help group discussion with any text of Scripture. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

Share a high point and a low point from the week.

Or, select a fun question / topic for opening discussion.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT: Scripture interprets Scripture.

Read the text. Observe how the details contribute to the whole of the passage.

Look for repeated words or themes, for people and places, for key connections (therefore, so that, etc.).

What is this text about? Is there a common thread that connects the details to the bigger picture of this passage? How does the immediate context around this text help us?

What insights does the text describe about God? People? The human condition? Discuss with the group.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL: The written Word (Bible) points us to the Resurrected Word (Jesus).

From this text, is there a connection to Jesus' life and teaching, death and resurrection, reign and future return, or divinity and worthiness of worship?

How does Jesus (and our identity in Him) help us know, love, and obey the One True, Majestic, Triune God?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH: Live a life of love, for God and neighbor, with all we are, wherever we are.

Is there a truth to believe or a lie to reject?

Is there an emotion to embrace or one to renounce?

Is there an action to do or one to stop doing?

How can I "repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:14), knowing all that God has for me in Christ?

What encouragement or instruction does this text have for me in various arenas for God's Kingdom: my family, my church, my neighbors, my vocation, my world, my recreation, my own soul? Select one or two and be specific.

Pray!

FAMILY / PARENTING FOCUS:

Having heard the sermon and worked through the Growth Guide, select a key Scripture and corresponding word of wisdom that will encourage your family in the Lord.

FURTHER STUDY:

Helpful websites: Desiring God Ministries (DesiringGod.org), Got Questions (GotQuestions.org), and Crossway Articles (Crossway.org/articles). Also, search Crossway for a helpful overview of "6 Habits for Successful Bible Study"



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FOR NEXT WEEK'S SERMON:

Rise and Fall of a King

1 Samuel 16:1-13 — January 3–4, 2026

As we transition from the Christmas season and into a new year, we will begin a new series in January 2026: Rise and Fall of a King. This series will look at key events in the life of David.

For understanding the background leading up to the life of David, read (or listen to) 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 15. It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes to read. Meditating on key biblical phrases is great. So, too, is taking in longer narrative sections like in 1 Samuel. Both help us understand the Grand Story that God is weaving.

So, in the days leading up to next weekend, set aside some time to engage the story that sets the stage for David. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' — Psalm 119:18