

GRACE YOUTH WINTER RETREAT 2026



KNOW THE WORD



Winter Retreat 2026: The Academy

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INTRODUCTION

The Academy College of Bible Knowledge was a great place for students to be last weekend!

Students had the opportunity to step away from the normal rhythms of life and immerse themselves in their relationships with the Lord, their leaders, and friends. Flourish led us into the presence of the Lord as we worshiped our God through song. The Academy “guest lecturers” for our “weekend intensive” were Dr. Matt Cassidy, Dr. Kevin Maurice, and Dr. Jeremiah Ebeling — the three former Grace Youth Pastors still on staff at our church, all currently serving on the Senior Leadership Team. Matt, Kevin, and Jeremiah taught our students the 40 Old Testament Walk Thru the Bible phrases and handsigns, bringing the word of God to life in a way that engaged the whole body to help students remember for a lifetime how the storyline of the Bible fits together and points forward toward Jesus. The Lord worked in incredible ways.

The name of this retreat, “The Academy,” was based on the collegiate environment of testing and exams, made a little more fun by the addition of four evenly-mixed, Harry Potter-adjacent Houses, some “non-contact” Quidditch, and a four-way points competition. Congratulations to Ravenfeather for winning the House Cup! “Fly, Ravens, fly!” Every year, Grace Youth Retreats teach a major theological doctrine. This year, our topic was



“Bibliology” or “words about the Bible” — its inerrancy, inspiration, authority, sufficiency, and canonicity. These truths are succinctly summarized in the Academy verse, 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.”

The goal of this retreat was for students to “Know the Word.” This is a double-entendre: we want them to “Know the Word” (the Bible) in order to “Know the Word” (Jesus). After this weekend, they are now equipped to assemble all of the seemingly-disconnected tales they first learned in children’s bibles together into one unified story that points to Jesus, further strengthened in their trust that the Scriptures are useful and true.

In this Wrap-up Book, you will get a glimpse into Winter Retreat: The Academy through photos, articles, and more.

We hope you enjoy!
The Youth Staff

Austen Hernung, Victoria Rodriguez, Thomas Oates, and Tammy Davenport



THE ACADEMY CHANT

by Austen Hornung

Since the start of the new year, if you've been at the Youth Services, the Retreat Rallies, the Academy College of Bible Knowledge, or even the Parenting Teens community, you've probably heard the Academy Chant:

5-12-5-5-12! 4-1-21-1!

And what does that series of numbers mean? I'm glad you asked — it's an explanation of how the biblical canon is organized. The Walk Thru the Bible phrases and hand signs taught in our speaker sessions give us the storyline of scripture. "The Academy Chant" complements this by giving us a roadmap to where every book is located and why. Put them together, and you have all the tools you need to understand everything that is happening in the Bible.

5 Law: Your Bible starts out with five books known as "the Law" or "the Torah" (Hebrew for "Law") or "the Pentateuch" (Greek for "Five Books") that tell the origin story of God's chosen people: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

12 History: Next, you have twelve books of the history of the people of Israel. There are three in the "Promised Land Era," before the nation had a king: Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Next, three in the "Kingdom Era" each of which get split into two because of scroll length: Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles. And finally three in the "Exile and Return Era": Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

5 Poetry: Job lived shortly after Esther, right? Actually, he lived between one and two thousand years before her! We're now in the poetry section of the Bible, written or collected by David and Solomon in the time of the United Kingdom: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Song of Songs.

5 Major Prophets: Why are they major? Simply because they're the longest! These prophets wrote later than most of the "minor prophets" but get a special place before them in the canon: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

12 Minor Prophets: These are the the books of the Bible that you forgot existed (except for you, Jonah; you have a special place in our hearts). They were written

during the divided kingdom, exile, and return: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

4 Gospels: Now we're 400 years later, in the New Testament. Just as the Old Testament started with the origin story of Israel, the New Testament begins with the origin story of the promised King. These four eye-witness biographies are of Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made flesh: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

1 History: The Old Testament had twelve history books, but the New Testament only has one. It is written by the Gentile doctor, Luke, who wrote a Gospel and traveled with Paul, chronicling the start of the church and the spread of the good news about Jesus to the world: Acts.

21 Letters: Jesus's apostles (Greek for "sent-ones") did some sending themselves when they mailed the churches epistles (Greek for "letters"). Paul's nine letters to churches come first: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, and 2 Thessalonians. Paul's four epistles to individuals come next: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. The final eight letters were written by apostles who were not Paul, grouped by author: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. Trying to find a specific epistle? Each section of letters is organized from longest to shortest.

1 Prophecy: Just as the Gospels mirror the Law, Acts mirrors the OT Historical books, and the collection of letters mirrors the collection of poetry, Revelation reflects the prophets. The same John who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem and wrote letters to churches records the ending of the Lord God's story.



HOUSE LIONROAR



House of Courage and Honor
Head Professor: Leon Aryeh
Prefects: Abigail Cochran + Taylor Ebeling

“The wicked person fled, though no one was pursuing, but the righteous person can be as courageous as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1)

HOUSE BADGERFLUFF



House of Friendship and Loyalty
Head Professor: Shaphana Chorio
Prefects: Gideon Hock + Helena Weldon

“A friend loves at all times, and a sibling is born to help in adversity” (Proverbs 17:17)

HOUSE SERPENTFANG



House of Leadership and Ambition
Head Professor: Ophis Nakhash
Prefects: Luke Ebeling + Alyssa Pennies

"Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established" (Proverbs 16:3)

HOUSE RAVENFEATHER



House of Wisdom and Creativity
Head Professor: Ora Korax
Prefects: Zabby Myung + Jack Andrews

"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6)

WALK THRU 1 - 8

by Matt Cassidy + Austen Hornung

On the first night of our weekend intensive at the Academy College of Bible Knowledge, Dr. Matt Cassidy began the 40 Old Testament Walk Thru hand signs and phrases. After giving some insight on the structure and geography of the Old Testament, Matt taught us the book of Genesis in just eight words and motions. The first four cover chapters 1-11, and give us the big picture of the start of humanity. The second four zoom in on a particular family in a successive line of patriarchs who lead them.

1. Creation

The Lord God made all that is seen and is unseen. He did not do this with the humanistic violence present in the creation myths of the surrounding ancient near eastern peoples, but simply by speaking. The entire cosmos obeys his Word.

2. Fall

For there to be true love, there must truly be a choice. The first people, as the Lord's chosen representatives for all of humanity, decided they wanted to be like God and define good and evil for themselves. In reaching out to take what they thought they deserved, they plunged all of creation into sin and death.



3. Flood

As people increased in number, their rebellion only grew. The relationship between the first siblings ended when one brother killed the other, and it only got worse from there. The thoughts of every human heart were only evil continually, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and he and his family were preserved through judgement.

4. Nations

Using brick for stone and tar for mortar, humanity after the flood continued to disobey God's one mandate. Instead of filling the Earth and subduing it, they tried to construct a man-made staircase to heaven. But the Lord, in his grace, confused their language and scattered them, leading to the rise of nations.

5. Abraham

Out of all the nations, God chose one old man to be the father of many nations. Abraham, the father of faith, also had plenty of doubts, and yet when he received an unconditional covenant of land, descendents, and blessing from the Lord, he believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

6. Isaac

His parents' "laughter" at God's promise for them to have a son in their old age was immortalized in his name. He and his wife Rebekah similarly struggled with infertility before miraculously conceiving fraternal twin boys and being told by God that the older would serve the younger.

7. Jacob

Despite being selected as the heir of promise while in the womb, Jacob tried to scheme his way into receiving blessing. He "wrestled with God" and got renamed "Israel" — after that, he never walked the same again. Jacob is the poster child for why we should pursue "God's will, God's way" instead of "God's will, my way."

8. Joseph

The oldest son of his father's favored wife, Joseph is the best character in the Book of Genesis — and he knew it, too. In his special, multicolored jacket, he told his brothers his dreams from the Lord about how they would all bow to him. This leads him to be beaten by them, sold into slavery, wrongly imprisoned, and then exalted at just the right time to govern Egypt through a famine. He forgave his brothers, delivering the big idea of the book of Genesis: "What you meant for evil, God meant for good, for the saving of many lives."



WALK THRU 9 - 24

by Kevin Maurice + Victoria Rodriguez

Saturday morning, Dr. Kevin Maurice continued the Old Testament Walk Thru with the next sixteen hand signs, taking students from the book of Exodus through the time of the Judges.

9. Moses

In the book of Exodus, 400 years pass between Joseph and Moses, and now there is a new Pharaoh who enslaved the Hebrew people. Moses, who was saved from the fate of enslavement, lived as an ordinary shepherd until the Lord sent him to go to Pharaoh and demand he let God's people go. God displayed his power, sending ten plagues and even splitting the waters of the Red Sea to provide his people a way out.

10. Passover

But Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. The plagues God sent attacked each Egyptian deity, and the tenth stuck Pharaoh himself with the death of every firstborn son. But God protected his people and gave them a substitute — the blood of an innocent lamb painted on the doorpost — which foreshadowed Jesus, our ultimate substitute who shed his blood on the cross.

11. Law

Once the people were out of Egypt, they arrived at Mt. Sinai, where the Lord gave his people the Law, which starts with the Ten Commandments. The Law was a gift — it was not so that they could earn his love, but because they already possessed it.

12. Tabernacle

Because of his love for his people, the Lord chose to dwell with them. He gave them the instructions to build the Tabernacle so that he could commune with them and they could worship him. This was once again a signpost that points to Jesus, who “tabernacled” among us when God took on flesh.



13. Offerings, Feasts

Now we turn to the book of Leviticus, where the Lord outlined instructions for the Levitical priests, who were the intermediaries between God and his people. They led worship through offerings and feasts, so that the people could atone for their sins and celebrate God's faithfulness.

14. Counting, Spying

In the book of Numbers, the people conducted a census and got ready to move into the Promised Land. Each of the twelve tribes elected one spy to go into the Promised Land, but ten of the spies reported back that the land's occupants would destroy them. Two spies, however, trusted God's promises and believed that the Lord would be with them when they took the land.

15. Wandering, Dying

Unfortunately, the people were too scared and did not trust the Lord. So, for the next 40 years, the people wandered and died in the wilderness because of their unbelief. This sad part of the story reminds us that being a Christian means we don't face the scary things in life alone. God is faithful and he is always with us.

16. Second Law

After 40 years, the unbelieving generation died off in the wilderness. The Israelites were ready to take the Promised Land. Before God led them there, however, he gave them the second law in the book of Deuteronomy, in which God outlines a conditional covenant. If the Israelites obey the law, God will bless them.

17. Joshua

With the Torah completed, we turn to Joshua, a new leader chosen by God. The people crossed through the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

18. Divide and Conquer

Once in the land, Joshua had a strategy: divide and conquer. The Israelites took the Promised Land in seven years.

19. Twelve Tribes

Once the land was conquered, Joshua distributed territory to the twelve tribes: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Ephraim, and Manasseh. The final two were elevated to give their father, Joseph, a double-portion. Moses's tribe, Levi, lived in every territory to serve as priests.

20. Judges

For the next 400 years, the people were led by military and judicial leaders called "judges." The people got caught in a vicious cycle of forgetting the Lord, falling into idolatry, getting oppressed by surrounding nations, calling out to God in repentance, being delivered by a judge, and then forgetting the Lord again. Each successive judge experienced this downward spiral, going from good to bad to worst.

21. Deborah

The first and best judge written about in detail was Deborah. She was the only female judge, standing out even more for her complete trust in the Lord before, during, and after the battle.

22. Gideon

Gideon was an "okay" judge. When the Lord told him to fight the enemy, Gideon tested God by placing a fleece on the ground and asking for successive wet/dry tests. Eventually, he trusted God and threw off their oppressors, only to later lead the people into idolatry.

23. Samson

The last judge we meet is Samson, who is known for his strength in battle and his pursuit of women, but not for trusting the Lord. This marked a low point in the narrative as the people drifted further and further from God.

24. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes, except Ruth and...

The book of Judges highlights the repetitive cycle of Israel's sin and unbelief in God. The final verse in Judges says, "Everyone did what was right in their own eyes." But there was still hope. The Book of Ruth is a redemption story set in the time of the judges, where a young widow chose to join the Israelites and follow their God. She found a new husband named Boaz, and they have a great-grandson named David, who would one day become a king after God's own heart.

We see in this section that no matter how far we stray or doubt, God is faithful to his promises. No matter where you have been or how far you have wandered, the Lord invites you to come home to him and start living with him today.



THE QUIDDITCH TOURNAMENT



Captains

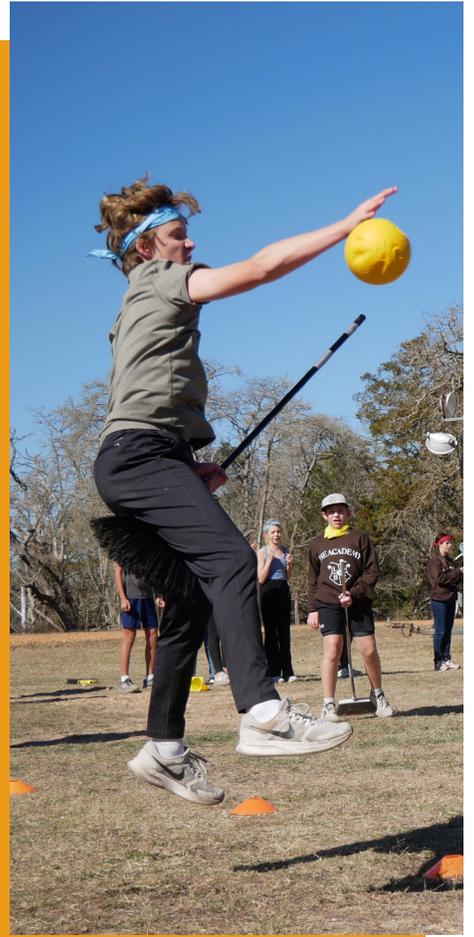
Lionroar: Cavin Jupe, Sophia McClarty, Jeremy Tao, Jillian Rupp

Serpentfang: Levi Baron, Holly Vessa, Kaufman Boyd, Katya Vyssotski

Badgerfluff: Wyatt Andrews, Blythe Assunto, Fuller Carrell, Sloan Magee

Ravenfeather: Camden Jones, Sophie Tao, Nathan Morris, and Mabel Craig





WALK THRU 25 - 40

by Jeremiah Ebeling + Thomas Oates

Dr. Jeremiah Ebeling rounded out the 40 Old Testament Walk Thru hand signs and phrases on Saturday night, taking us from the end of the time of the Judges through the eras of the United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Exile, and Return.

25. Samuel

Samuel was the last Judge of Israel, and one of the best. He heard from and spoke on behalf of God, and was instrumental in providing leadership for Israel as it transitioned into a United Kingdom, personally anointing its first two kings.

26. United Kingdom

The people of Israel demanded to be like the other surrounding nations and have a king, despite warnings from Samuel. God granted this request, and the 12 tribes of Israel were united under the rule of a single king for 120 years until they split after the reign of Solomon.

27. Saul, No Heart

Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel because he was the right choice in the eyes of the people. After seeing some success, Saul revealed that he had no heart for God, and repeatedly did what he thought was right instead of what the Lord said. God removed the kingdom from him and promised rule to a man after his own heart.

28. David, Whole Heart

The Lord chose David, a small shepherd boy to succeed Saul because of his whole-hearted devotion. David was not a perfect man or king, but loved the Lord and repented when he sinned. God established a covenant with David that a descendant of his would rule forever, and the kingdom was passed to his son Solomon.



29. Solomon, Half Heart

Solomon began his rule well, asking the Lord for wisdom and governing with justice and prudence. Unlike David, however, Solomon was led astray by his many wives, plunging God's kingdom into rampant idolatry. Due to his divided affections, God told Solomon that the kingdom, likewise, would be divided in two.

30. Divided Kingdom

Just as God had said, the once united kingdom of Israel fractured into a Northern and Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom, called "Israel" (also "Ephraim" or "Samaria") consisted of ten the twelve tribes and had exclusively bad kings. The South Kingdom was made up of Judah and Benjamin, and had a few good kings.

31. Mostly Bad Kings

Out of 40 kings during the divided kingdom period, only eight of them were good, and all eight were in the South. The mark of a good king was following David's footsteps and pursuing a life with God, while the mark of a bad king was pursuing idolatry, greed, and power. These bad kings led to the downfall of both kingdoms.

32. Prophets Speak

Stretching from the time of the Divided Kingdom into the era of the Exile were the seventeen writing prophets. These men spoke on behalf of God to warn against the coming judgements for disobedience and to promise future redemption for Israel and Judah.

33. Israel Scattered

Because of the generations of rebellion against the Lord by the Northern Kingdom, God used the Assyrian Empire to conquer them in 722 BC. The Assyrians scattered the Israelites, and brought in new people to occupy the land who mixed with them, forming a people known in the New Testament as “the Samaritans.” The Southern Kingdom would remain intact during this time.

34. Judah Exiled

Because of the faithfulness of eight of Judah’s kings, the southern kingdom lasted over a century years longer than Israel, until God judged their disobedience using the Babylonian Empire in 586 BC. The people of Judah were relocated to the east, exiled in Babylon for 70 years.

35. Judah Returned

After seven decades of exile, God raised up the Persian Empire to conquer the Babylonians. The Persians allowed the Kingdom of Judah (now known as “Jews”) to return, but only about 50,000 answered God’s call to go back to their land. Those who returned found their homeland in ruins, but some key leaders facilitated the rebuilding of Jerusalem and Jewish culture.

36. Zerubbabel, Temple

Zerubbabel, a descendent of David, led the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. This second temple inspired joy in the younger generation as they once again had a place to worship God. The elderly people who had seen the original, however, wept at its contrast with the former splendor of Solomon’s temple.

37. Esther, Queen

Back in Persia, the wicked governor Haman sought to destroy the Jews who remained. The Lord raised up Esther “for such a time as this” to become queen of Persia and influence King Xerxes to change his mind and relent from killing the Jews.

38. Ezra, People

The next person to lead a return to Israel was Ezra, who led a spiritual rebuilding in Jerusalem. Ezra was a priest who restored the people to following the laws of God that had been ignored for generations.

39. Nehemiah, Walls

The third person to lead a return was Nehemiah, who found the walls of Jerusalem in disrepair. Nehemiah led the people to rebuild all of the walls around Jerusalem in only 52 days. The leaders of the returns rebuilt the temple, the walls, and the spiritual lives of the former exiles.

40. Wait, Christ

The Lord began the 400 years of silence while the people of Israel wait for the promised Messiah. Despite more political turmoil to follow, the people eagerly waited for the promised anointed one of God to rescue them.







WALK THRU 41 - 44

Austen Hornung

Now you know the story of the Old Testament in just 40 key phrases and handsigns. Well done! Look back at some of the people the Lord chose to call his friends. How many of them were heroes? That's right — absolutely none of them! But God chose to use them anyway. Not because they were perfect, but because they had imperfect faith and lots of doubts but chose to hang out with the Lord and be a part of his plan anyway. If God will use that group of people, he is willing to use you too, if you only have a little bit of faith and a heart that is willing to trust him despite your doubts. The Academy College of Bible Knowledge is about “all scripture,” however, not just the Old Testament (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Learn these four “Intertestamental Period” handsigns and you will get a glimpse at what God was up to during “Wait, Christ.”

1. 400 Years of Silence between Malachi & Matthew

God took his time and waited for just the right moment to come as the Word made flesh. In these 400 years of silence, Greek became the *lingua franca* of the Mediterranean. Hellenistic empires to the North and the South—the Seleucid Dynasty in modern-day Turkey and the Ptolemaic Dynasty in modern-day Egypt—had to go through the Land of Israel in order to fight each other. There was even an independent Jewish kingdom for a time. And yet God was silent, waiting for the right time.



2. Greek Language

How would the good news about Jesus go out to all peoples? Well, everyone had to speak the same language. So a Macedonian prince became known as Alexander “the Great” when he conquered the known world from Greece all the way to India, including Israel. And then everyone spoke Greek, including the Jews.

3. Israel Hopes

In the Intertestamental Period, God wasn't speaking through prophets. However, being a political football between two empires for 400 years really makes a people long for their promised King. They were more than ready for him to rule from David's throne and throw off their oppressors. God's people waited eagerly for their Messiah, now called “the Christ” in Greek.



4. Rome, Roads

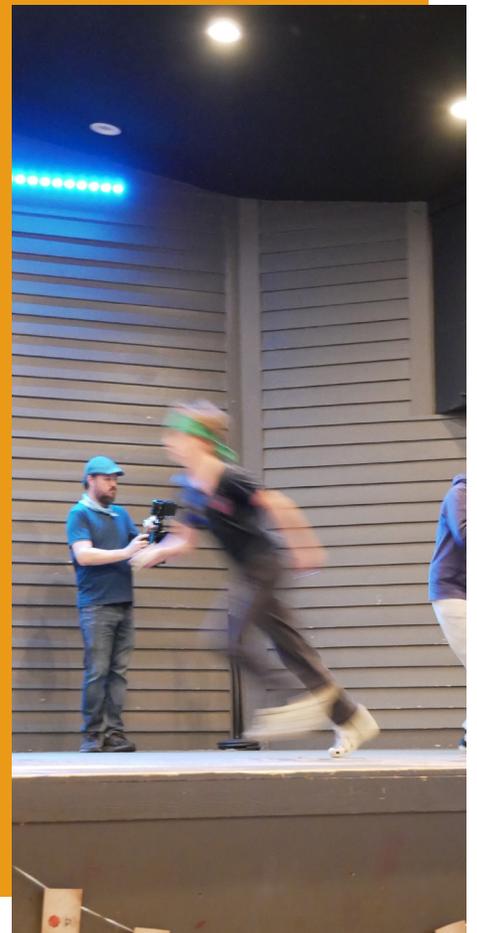
And, finally, there needed to be a system of roads connecting Europe, Africa, and Asia — and since Israel is perfectly positioned at the intersection of these three continents, Rome’s roads went through Jerusalem as well. And so it was now possible for the good news about Jesus to rapidly spread across the land, starting in the place where three of the six habitable continents converge, and going out to the rest of the world from there.



When parents find out about a child, we start to get everything prepared. Parents buy diapers and assemble a crib. We buy and are given so many cute baby clothes. There are baby swings, toys, pacifiers, bottles, and wipes. Hospital bags are packed in advance. We get everything ready for the day that precious child will arrive. God the Father, in the same way, got everything perfectly ready for the arrival of God the Son. But it wasn’t diapers and wipes and cribs that he got ready. It was the entire planet. The Father readied a common language. He placed his chosen people at the center of the map, and constructed a political situation that caused them to hope. He built roads that connected the known world. And then, at just the right time, the Lord became a baby. The Word became flesh. And all of history hinges on him.



THE QUAD-SCHOLAR TOURNAMENT





THE ACADEMY: GRACE YOUTH WINTER RETREAT, 2026

THE CHIASM OF HISTORY

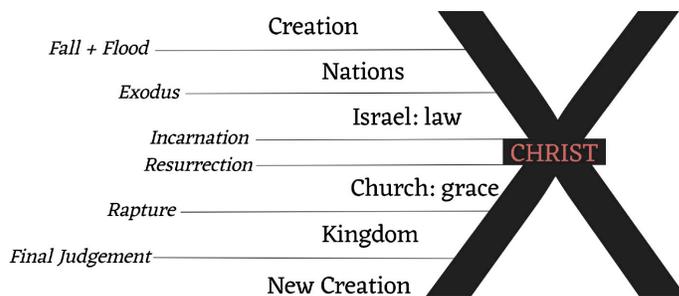
by Austen Hornung



What is your story? This question is key to getting to know someone on a deeper level. In order to become close to other people, it's important to know who they are: where they come from, what their families are like, and what key parts of their lives have shaped who they are today. On one of my first dates with my wife, Ashley, we sat on a bench together after dinner and I learned about her life in California, what it had been like growing up with a single Mom and a military Dad, and how she had gone from a nonbeliever to working at a church in two years time. Eleven months later we were engaged. Five months after that we were married. Now, six years into marriage, we have three children together. And it all started that night sharing our stories. Knowing someone's story is key to actually being close — it is where deep and meaningful relationships begin.

The Lord knows your story. He knows every second of what you have and will think, feel, and do from the moment you were conceived until the day you exhale your last breath. He knows you better than you do. You have forgotten most of your past, but he remembers all of your future. And this all-knowing God who knows you better than you know yourself also loves you enough to want to be known by you in return. He is intimately familiar with every part of your story. But, in order for there to be a relationship, you also have to know his as well. We have to “know the word” in order to “know the Word.” We have to know God's word, the Bible, in order to know Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Those 40 Old Testament and four intertestamental-period key phrases and hand-signs you learned at the Academy are one of the easiest and most memorable ways to put the story of scripture together. Add in the Academy Chant, and you've got it made. Now you know the Lord's story leading up to Jesus. Take a look at how his entire story of history is set up in a chiasmic structure, with an end that mirrors the beginning and puts all of the focus on Christ.



That big “X” is the Greek letter “*chi*” (pronounced “*kai*” or “*key*”). It is a literary device used all throughout the Old Testament to form an ABCBA thought-pattern where the first and last sections “rhyme ideas” instead of sounds, as do the sections leading up to and flowing out of the main point, which is placed at the very center.

Here is what is crazy about biblical authors using this pattern in the Old Testament: the people of God didn't speak Greek until Alexander the Great conquered the known world in the Intertestamental Period (see Walk Thru #42). Before that, they spoke Hebrew — and there is no letter that looks like “X” in Hebrew. Want to guess what New Testament word starts with “*chi*”? Know any that start with a “*ch*” that makes a “*k*” sound? That's right: Χριστος (*Christos*), a.k.a. “Christ.” Fun fact: so does χαρις (*karis*) or “grace.” And the shape of the letter? You're not seeing things — that is a cross. I'm pretty confident that was intentional on God's part too. No detail is too small for him. All of history centers on Christ.

Creation | New Creation

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth, designing humans male and female in his image (think back to *Winter Retreat: Designed* from two years ago). And, as those of you who were at *Winter Retreat: The Return* learned one year ago, the final state of all existence will be a New Creation where God reunites Heaven and Earth and restores this world to how it was meant to be in the beginning — but all the more wonderful for once having been so sad. Just as the original, perfect creation ended with judgment for human sin with the Fall and Flood, the New Creation will be ushered in after a final judgement of all God’s enemies from every time and place throughout history.



Nations | Kingdom

Working our way in toward the center of the Chiasm of History, next we have the rise of nations as humans scatter across the globe, divided into different people groups. In the same way, when Jesus returns he will usher in a new Kingdom where this scattering will be reversed as he resurrects his people to reign with him on a restored Earth. All nations, people, and languages will come together under his kingship to worship him. There are also striking parallels between the event that ended the era of Nations and the event that will begin the era of the Kingdom: the Exodus and the Rapture. “Exodus” is Greek for “the way out” — despite their misery in Egypt, in God’s greatest miracle in the Old Testament, the Lord made a family of slaves his own people: a Kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. So also, before the end, Christ’s new Kingdom will begin with the resurrection and rapture of all the Lord’s people, preserved through the Great Tribulation when God pours out his wrath on the Earth before we enter into Christ’s Kingdom. God did not destine us for wrath, but to be saved through him.

Israel: Law | Church: Grace

Taking another step inward, we get the main parts of the Old and New Testaments. From Moses all the way to Malachi, the nation of Israel was God’s chosen people. From Gospels to glory, right now, today, the Church is composed of the Lord’s chosen people in this era of history. Formerly, they were under the Law. Now, we are under grace.

CHRIST

And there, in the very center of the chiasm, is Jesus: the word made flesh. The Lord had the whole script planned out before the very beginning. Jesus sits right between the Law and Grace, between Israel and the Church. Everything changed when the Creator God became the baby in the manger, what we call the “incarnation.” The Word became flesh. And yet again, everything changed when Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for all the mistakes everyone in the world had ever made or would ever make. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9). Jesus’ resurrection proved that he really is the Lord God in the flesh, and that changed everything.

God already knows your story, and he has made his known as well. Know the word, because the Word knows you, and he wants to be known by you.



SPRING READING PLAN

JOSHUA THROUGH DAVID

PART I: THE PROMISED LAND

- Day 1: Joshua 1-2
- Day 2: Joshua 3-4
- Day 3: Joshua 5-6
- Day 4: Joshua 7-8
- Day 5: Joshua 9-10
- Day 6: Joshua 11
- Day 7: Joshua 23-24
- Day 8: Judges 1-2
- Day 9: Judges 3-4
- Day 10: Judges 5-6
- Day 11: Judges 7-8
- Day 12: Judges 9-10
- Day 13: Judges 11-12
- Day 14: Judges 13-14
- Day 15: Judges 15-16
- Day 16: Judges 17-18
- Day 17: Ruth 1-2
- Day 18: Ruth 3-4
- Day 19: 1 Samuel 1-2
- Day 20: 1 Samuel 3-4
- Day 21: 1 Samuel 5-6
- Day 22: 1 Samuel 7-9

PART II: THE UNITED KINGDOM

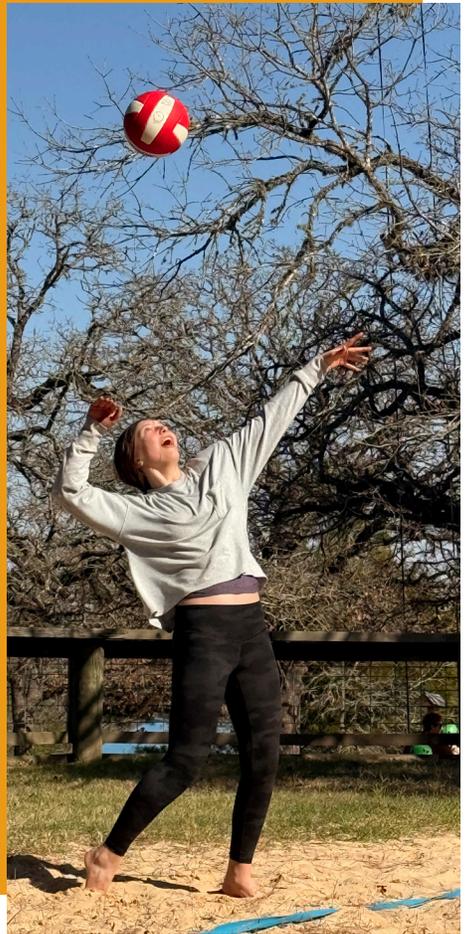
- Day 23: 1 Samuel 10-11
- Day 24: 1 Samuel 12-13
- Day 25: 1 Samuel 14-15
- Day 26: 1 Samuel 16-17
- Day 27: 1 Samuel 18-19
- Day 28: 1 Samuel 20-21
- Day 29: 1 Samuel 22-23
- Day 30: 1 Samuel 24-25
- Day 31: 1 Samuel 26-27
- Day 32: 1 Samuel 28-29
- Day 33: 1 Samuel 30-31
- Day 34: 2 Samuel 1-2
- Day 35: 2 Samuel 3-4
- Day 36: 2 Samuel 5-6
- Day 37: 2 Samuel 7-8
- Day 38: 2 Samuel 9-10
- Day 39: 2 Samuel 11-12
- Day 40: 2 Samuel 13-14
- Day 41: 2 Samuel 15-16
- Day 42: 2 Samuel 17-18
- Day 43: 2 Samuel 19-20
- Day 44: 2 Samuel 21-22
- Day 45: 2 Samuel 23-24

START DATE: JANUARY 19, 2026

END DATE: MARCH 5, 2026

**CELEBRATION LUNCH: MARCH 22, 2026
(OVER 2 BONUS WEEKS)**





THANK YOU



Retreat Leaders

ADULT LEADERS

Sarah Rinn
Matt Rinn
Wesley White
Bill Tucker
Ashley Monplaisir
Corey Jones
Dayna Ebeling

Jessica Castillo
Steve Sherwood
Mindi Adams
Kalesa Nuylan
Carol Feller
Angelo Feller
Molly Kreis

Justin Kreis
Sunee Conly
De'Sante Huckaby
Geneva Oates
Peyton Jones
Laurel Williams
Brian Williams

Curtis Jones
Jason Hall
Sarah Tao
Janelle Wallis
Kelli Youngblood
Matt Youngblood
Camilo La Rota

COLLEGE LEADERS

Mark Henke

Elizabeth Brumley

Naya Domingo

Luke Henke

MEDICAL & SUPPORT

Dr. Debra Dollar

Tammy Davenport

Aiden Gilley

Josh Leisure

DESIGN & COMMUNICATION

Julie Loftsgaarden

Ben Wenzel

Kam Clark

Josh Cox

GUEST LECTURERS & WORSHIP

Dr. Matt Cassidy
Dr. Kevin Maurice

Dr. Jeremiah Ebeling

Jaime Dodson
Kaleb Hale

Tito Sopena
Sydney Frank



Senior Class of 2026

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is
useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in
righteousness, so that the servant of
God may be thoroughly
equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17