

# Getting Started with 2026

- **Wednesday Nights resume this week**
  - Meal @ 5pm; Groups @ 6pm
- **Church Membership Info Meeting**
  - Sun, Jan 11 @ 9:15am
- **Students' United Weekend**
  - January 23-25

# A New Year

*“History doesn’t repeat itself,  
but it does rhyme.”*

# A New Year Pattern

- *Characters: God's People*
- *Setting: in God's Place*
- *Plot: for God's Purposes*

# John 20:11-12

But Mary [Magdalene; not Jesus' mother] stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And *she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain*, one at the head and one at the feet.

# John 20:13-14

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

# John 20:15

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

John 20:16

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic,  
“Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

# John 20:17

Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

# John 20:18

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “*I have seen the Lord*”— and that he had said these things to her.

# 1. God's People

- Background
  - OT - Adam/Eve, Abraham/Sarah, Israel
  - NT - Jesus, Church
- Pattern = Characters (Mary Magdalene)
  - Slow to Understand
  - *Redeemed; Unexpected; Named*

## 2. In God's Place

- Background
  - OT - Eden, Exile, Promised Land
  - NT - Judea, Nations, New Creation
- Pattern = Setting (Garden)
  - Jesus is THE Gardener
  - *Growth; Centrifugal*

# 3. For God's Purposes

- Background
  - OT - Multiply / Fill the Earth; Be Light
  - NT - Make Disciples; Be Salt and Light
- Pattern = Plot (Go and Tell)
  - Jesus is Lord
  - *Hope; Mission*

# 2026

## People

- Who will I be? (And, who will I be with?)

## Place

- Where will I go?

## Purpose

- What will I do?