

TAKING GROUND

A figure wearing a long, flowing cape is walking away from the viewer towards the right. The figure is silhouetted against a bright orange light source, creating a strong glow around the cape. The background is a gradient from dark blue on the left to bright orange on the right.

WALKING IN
SPIRITUAL DOMINION

FALL SEMESTER
RIVERSIDE CHURCH

THIS SYLLABUS BELONGS TO

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Scan to access digital syllabus
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available on platforms below.

TAKING GROUND:
WALKING IN SPIRITUAL DOMINION

**I give unto you
power to tread
on serpents
and scorpions,
and over all the
power of the
enemy: and
nothing shall
by any means
hurt you.**

Luke 10:19

introduction

Not what you've settled for. Not what you've been told to accept. What He intended.

See, in Genesis 1:26, God didn't just make man to survive in this world, He made man to rule in it. Dominion. That's the word. Not domination, not control for control's sake, but the God-given authority to steward, to subdue, to bring order to everything He placed under our feet. That was the original design. That was Eden. That was the plan before anything went wrong.

But something did go wrong. In Genesis 3, dominion got traded. Adam and Eve took what was theirs to rule and handed it over to sin, and the ripple effect of that one trade is still moving through creation today. The ground got cursed. Death entered the human story. And the earth itself, Scripture says, has been groaning ever since, waiting for something to change.

Here's the good news, and it's the whole reason we're doing this series: God never abandoned the plan. From the first covering He made for

Adam and Eve, through the blood of Abel, through Moses and the tabernacle, through the Ark and the kings, all the way to the cross, God has been making a way back. Not just to forgive us. To restore us. To put dominion back in the hands of His people.

Jesus is the second Adam. Where the first Adam surrendered dominion, Jesus walked in it perfectly, and then He gave it back to us. Romans 5 says we reign in life through Him. Ephesians says we're seated with Him in heavenly places right now. That's not someday language. That's now language.

So over the next seven weeks, we're going to trace this whole story together. Where dominion started. How we lost it. What it cost us. And how, through the blood of Jesus and the presence of God now living inside of us, we get to walk in it again, today, not in eternity, not someday. Now.

Creation is groaning, waiting on the sons of God to be revealed. Church, that's us. Let's go find out what that actually looks like.

Week One:

THE MANDATE

Dominion given to man over every living thing, made in God's image. Cover radah (dominion/ rule) and kabash (subdue), what they actually mean in Hebrew, and what dominion looked like before anything went wrong. This first week we will begin to go back to God's original plan.

Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth."
Genesis 1:26 (AMP)



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_____ **“Then God said, ‘Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth.’” Genesis 1:26 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What does it mean to be made in God’s image? How should knowing that God created us to represent Him change the way we live?

Prayer Focus: To understand who God created us to be and faithfully represent Him in everything we do.

_____ **“Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” Genesis 1:28 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: God gave Adam and Eve responsibility before sin ever entered the world. What has God given our family responsibility for? How can we take better care of what He has entrusted to us?

Prayer Focus: For wisdom and discipline to steward our home, relationships, gifts, and responsibilities well.

_____ **“You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority.” Psalm 8:6 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Biblical dominion isn’t about controlling people; it’s about responsibly ruling what God has entrusted to us. Where can our family bring greater order, care, and godly influence?

Prayer Focus: To exercise God-given authority with humility, wisdom, and love while taking responsibility for what He has placed in our hands.

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THE SUNDAY WEEKLY

Adam trades dominion for sin. The curse hits the ground itself, thorns and thistles, work becomes toil. Man is separated from the tree of life and driven from the garden. This is dominion lost, not just innocence lost. This week we will talk about how people are still trading Dominion for sin and how surrender to Jesus takes us back to our rightful place.

Scripture reference: Genesis 3

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_____ **“She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her.” Genesis 3:6 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Adam and Eve traded obedience to God for something that looked good in the moment. What are some things that can tempt us to trade what God wants for what we want right now?

Prayer Focus: For wisdom to recognize temptation and strength to choose obedience to God over temporary desires.

_____ **“And to the man he said... ‘The ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.’” Genesis 3:17 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Sin didn’t just affect Adam and Eve; it affected what God had given them to steward. How can our choices affect our family and the people around us?

Prayer Focus: For our family to understand the importance of our choices and to choose obedience that produces life instead of compromise.

_____ **“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Adam surrendered to temptation, but Jesus shows us a better way—surrendering ourselves to God. What areas of our lives do we need to surrender more fully to Jesus?

Prayer Focus: To surrender every area of our lives to Jesus and resist anything that tries to pull us away from God’s purpose.

DEEPER SERVICE | SERMON NOTES:This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is white, and there are no other markings or text present.

Week Three:

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

What the fall did beyond Eden. Death enters the human race, not just Adam. The earth itself is described as groaning under a curse it didn't choose (this sets up Romans 8 later). Spiritual death now reigns where dominion used to. In this part, we want to clarify how and why bad things happen in the Earth. And the solution to prevent or turnaround is found in the church.

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_____ **“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” Romans 5:12 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How does understanding the effects of the Fall help you better understand why our world needs Jesus?

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus that His grace is greater than the effects of sin. Pray for His life and redemption to be evident in the broken areas of your world.

_____ **“Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” Romans 8:20–22 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Where do you see evidence of a broken world, and how can you bring the hope of God’s Kingdom into those situations?

Prayer Focus: Pray for those experiencing pain and brokenness. Ask God to use you and the Church to bring hope, healing, compassion, and the light of Christ into a hurting world.

_____ **“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”Matthew 5:14, 16 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What is one area of your life, community, or world where God may be calling you to shine His light?

Prayer Focus: Ask God to use you as a carrier of His presence and hope. Pray that the Church would rise up and demonstrate the love and power of Jesus in a broken world.

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Week Four:

THE BLOOD AND THE WAY BACK

From Adam and Eve's first covering, through Cain and Abel, to Moses and the Law, blood is the constant thread of atonement. The tabernacle gets built as a portable, physical picture of Eden and the tree of life, God making a way to dwell with man again after the separation of chapter 3. This week is simply about the power of the blood of Jesus.



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_____ **“And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.” Genesis 3:21 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: In what ways are people tempted to try to cover their own sin, guilt, or shame instead of receiving God’s grace?

Prayer Focus: Thank God that you do not have to earn your forgiveness. Ask Him to help you stop hiding and fully receive the grace and covering He has provided through Jesus.

_____ **“In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.” Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What does it mean to you personally that Jesus willingly paid the price you could never pay?

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus for His sacrifice. Take time to worship Him for the forgiveness, freedom, and relationship with God made possible through His blood.

_____ **“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.” Hebrews 10:19–20 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How would your relationship with God change if you lived every day with the confidence that you have direct access to Him through Jesus?

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus that the way back to God has been opened. Pray for boldness to approach God’s presence daily and for a deeper hunger to know Him personally.

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Week Five:

THE PRE RETURNS

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The Ark represented God's presence among His people. The tabernacle, priests, and kings brought order and access to God, but they could not fix the deeper problem of the human heart. This week, we'll discover God's ultimate solution: His presence living within us.

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_____ **“Then King David was told, ‘The Lord has blessed Obed-edom’s household and everything he has because of the Ark of God.’ So David went there and brought the Ark of God up to the City of David with a great celebration.” 2 Samuel 6:12 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Why do you think the Ark was so important to Israel, and what did it represent to them?

Prayer Focus: Lord, help us recognize the value of Your presence. Teach us not to treat Your presence as something ordinary, but to make You the center of our lives.

_____ **“And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.” 2 Samuel 6:14 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What does David’s response teach us about how we should respond when we recognize God’s presence in our lives?

Prayer Focus: Lord, give us hearts that are passionate for Your presence. Help us worship You with everything we have and never become comfortable with living without You.

_____ **“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How is having the Holy Spirit living inside us different from the way God’s presence was experienced through the Ark and the tabernacle?

Prayer Focus: Lord, thank You that Your presence is not limited to a building or a special place. Thank You for choosing to live within us through Your Spirit. Help us carry Your presence everywhere we go and live in a way that honors You.

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THE SECOND ADAM

Week Six:

Jesus doesn't just forgive sin, He restores dominion. What the apostles actually taught about this: Romans 5:17 (reigning in life), Ephesians 1-2 (seated with Him), the last-Adam language in 1 Corinthians 15. This is the hinge part of the series. We will look at examples of how Jesus displayed Dominion while living on the Earth.

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____ **“For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful gift of grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:17 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What does it mean that Jesus gives us the ability to “live in triumph” through Him?

Prayer Focus: Lord, thank You that Jesus didn’t only rescue us from our past but gives us the grace to live differently today. Help us live in the freedom, righteousness, and victory You have given us through Christ.

____ **“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:6 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What do you think it means that we are “seated with Him”? How should knowing our position in Christ change the way we live?

Prayer Focus: Lord, help us understand who we are because we are united with Jesus. Teach us to live with confidence in You—not because of our own strength, but because of the authority and identity we have received through Christ.

____ **“The Scriptures tell us, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living person.’ But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 15:45 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: How is Jesus different from the first Adam, and what does it mean that Jesus is called the “last Adam”?

Prayer Focus: Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Second Adam who came to restore what was broken. Help us follow Your example, walk in the authority You give us, and live as people who have been made alive through You.

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Week Seven: **WALKING IN IT NOW**

Romans 8:19-22, creation groaning, waiting for the sons of God to be revealed. Land the series on what it practically means to walk in restored dominion today, not someday, now. This week we will discuss how all creation is waiting on us to mature.

For [even the whole] creation [all nature] waits eagerly for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration and futility, not willingly [because of some intentional fault on its part], but by the will of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will also be freed from its bondage to decay [and gain entrance] into the glorious freedom of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been moaning together as in the pains of childbirth until now.

Romans 8:19-22 (AMP)



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_____ **“For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.” Romans 8:19 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: What do you think it means for God’s children to live differently from the world around them? How can our family represent God well today?

Prayer Focus: For our family to mature spiritually and represent God’s character everywhere He has placed us.

_____ **“For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: Following Jesus is more than knowing the right things—it should change how we live. Where can we put our faith into action this week?

Prayer Focus: To move beyond simply talking about our faith and begin demonstrating God’s love, wisdom, and power through the way we live.

_____ **“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

Family Discussion: God has already prepared things for us to do. What responsibilities, opportunities, or people has God placed in front of our family right now?

Prayer Focus: To stop waiting for someday and faithfully walk in God’s purpose, responsibility, and authority today.

DEEPER SERVICE | SERMON NOTES:

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