

SABBATH FLOW

Cascading the Sabbath into the Week Ahead

“The Grand Announcement” sermon, April 18, 2026, Auburn SDA Church. For April 19-25. Sermon and guide by Pastor Mel Baga,

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Pray: Lord Jesus, open our hearts to hear the gospel as Your grand announcement. Teach us to receive Your reign, realign our lives, and join in Your good news. Amen.

Open: When you hear the word “gospel,” what comes to mind first?

Read: Read Mark 1:14–15 aloud together. Then read Romans 1:16–17 and Matthew 6:10.

Discuss: Pick as many as time allows.

1. What is the difference between advice and news?
2. Why does it matter that the gospel is news before it is advice?
3. How can Christians accidentally turn the gospel into advice about how to be saved, assured, or ready for heaven?
4. How does the long story of Scripture make Jesus’ announcement good news?
5. What changes when we understand “kingdom” as God’s reign rather than merely a place?
6. Where do you see “little kingdoms” at work in ordinary life: homes, schools, workplaces, churches, or systems?
7. Why does the announcement of God’s kingdom call for repentance?
8. How is repentance bigger than private regret?
9. What does it mean to believe the gospel, not just agree with it?
10. What would it look like for Auburn Church to become more fully a “gospeling” community?

Reflect: The gospel is not merely private advice about how to be saved. It is the grand announcement that God’s reign has drawn near in Jesus. That announcement has a backstory: the long story of God’s purpose reaching its appointed moment. It has a center: the kingdom of God has come near. And it has a summons: repent and believe.

When we receive this news, we are justified by faith, realigned under the King, and drawn into the chorus of those who announce His reign.

Pray: King Jesus, help us live under Your reign and announce Your good news with our lives. Amen. 🙏

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

SUNDAY

News, Not Advice

“The kingdom of God has drawn near.”

Read: Mark 1:14–15

Reflect: The gospel is not first advice about what we must do. It is news about what God has done. Advice puts the weight on our actions, our sincerity, our performance, and our ability to follow the right steps. News puts the weight somewhere else: on the event that has already happened. Jesus came announcing that something decisive had happened in God’s story. The kingdom of God had drawn near. That means we do not begin with ourselves; we

begin with God’s action in Jesus.

Pray: Lord Jesus, help me hear the gospel as news before I turn it into advice. Amen.

MONDAY

The Time is Fulfilled

“The fullness of time has come”

Read: Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4–5

Reflect: When Jesus says, “The time is fulfilled,” He means the long story has reached its turning point. Creation, rebellion, promise, Israel, David, exile, longing, and prophetic hope have all been moving toward this moment. The gospel does not begin with my private need to be

saved. It begins with God's story reaching its decisive hour in Jesus. The plot has turned. The King has entered the story.

Pray: Father, help me see my life inside Your larger story. Amen.

TUESDAY

The Kingdom Has Come Near

"Your kingdom come."

Read: Mark 1:15; Matthew 6:10

Reflect: The kingdom of God is not first a place. It is God's reign, God's rule, God's authority in action. When Jesus says the kingdom has come near, He is announcing that God is moving in as King. This is good news because God's reign brings truth, mercy, justice, peace, and life. It is also challenging news because every false kingdom is now exposed. Wherever something other than God rules, the kingdom calls it to bow.

Pray: King Jesus, let Your reign draw near in every part of my life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Repent Means Realign

"Be transformed."

Read: Mark 1:15; Romans 12:1–2

Reflect: Repentance means more than feeling sorry. It means rethinking everything in light of the King. If God's reign has drawn near, life cannot continue on its old terms. Every false center, every rival loyalty, and every crooked pattern must be brought back into line with God's reign. Repentance is personal, but it is not only personal. Whole homes, churches, schools, workplaces, and systems may need to be realigned under the character of God.

Pray: Lord, realign my heart and my life under Your reign. Amen.

THURSDAY

Believe in the Gospel

"The righteous shall live by faith."

Read: Mark 1:15; Romans 1:16–17

Reflect: To believe the gospel is more than agreeing with a doctrine. It means trusting the announcement and entrusting ourselves to the King it proclaims. This is where justification by faith belongs. When the gospel is believed by faith, God justifies, forgives, reconciles, and gives

assurance. These are beautiful effects of the gospel. But they are not the whole gospel itself. The gospel is the grand announcement that God's reign has drawn near in Jesus.

Pray: Jesus, teach me to trust Your announcement with my whole life. Amen.

FRIDAY

A Gospel Bigger than My Salvation

“Transfer us into the kingdom.”

Read: Mark 1:14–15; Colossians 1:13–14

Reflect: The gospel is big enough to save us personally, but it is larger than private salvation alone. God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son. That means salvation is not just rescue from guilt. It is transfer of allegiance. It is entrance into a new reign. We are forgiven, gathered, formed, and sent under the kingship of Jesus.

Pray: Lord Jesus, keep me from shrinking Your gospel. Amen.

SABBATH

The Grand Announcement

“Believe in the gospel.”

Read: Mark 1:14–15

Reflect: Jesus' gospel has a backstory, a center, and a response. The backstory is that the time is fulfilled. The center is that the kingdom of God has come near. The response is to repent and believe. This is the grand announcement: the true King has drawn near. And now every life, loyalty, habit, relationship, and system must be rethought in light of Him.

Pray: King Jesus, help me receive, live, and announce Your good news. Amen. 🍷