

The background features a complex marbled paper pattern in shades of grey, black, and white. A large, solid blue triangle is positioned on the left side, pointing towards the center. Several thin, parallel yellow lines run diagonally across the top left corner. The text 'NEW BEGINNINGS' is centered horizontally and partially overlaps the blue triangle and the marbled paper.

**NEW**  
BEGINNINGS

WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2026

## WILL WE LAY IT DOWN? (GEN. 22 & LUKE 18)

SPEAKER: PASTOR MIKE BURNETTE

### ICEBREAKER

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE COMING MONTH?



### REFLECTIONS OF THE STORY OF ABRAHAM & ISAAC

- *Read Genesis 22:1-19*
- *God tested Abraham, meaning he evaluated the strength of Abraham's devotion and love for Him. God does the same for us, but many times we find it difficult to walk through it. When is a time when God tested you and how did you walk out your faith in it?*
- *Abraham responded with immediate obedience, even though he risked losing his only son. When has the Lord asked something big of you and how did you respond? What can prevent us from being immediately obedient to the things that God is asking us to do?*
- *Abraham obeyed easily because he trusted God, because he knew God. God made Abraham a promise in which God kept. Is your relationship with God one where you know Him so well that you trust Him without hesitation? What evidence is there of this?*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2026**

## **WILL WE LAY IT DOWN? (GEN. 22 & LUKE 18)**

**SPEAKER: PASTOR MIKE BURNETTE**

- *Genesis 22:13a says that Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked and that's when he saw the ram. Had he been so focused on Isaac (the trial at hand), he would have missed the ram which God provided. How can we be intentional about focusing on God instead of the trial when we're being tested?*

### **GOD WANTS TO BE FIRST IN YOUR LIFE**

- *Read Luke 18:18-22*
- *God wants to be first in your life, above your job, your family, your friends. Do you struggle with keeping God above everything else?*
- *What makes it hard to admit that something is functioning as an idol in our life?*
- *Sometimes the things that God blesses us with we end up idolizing. What can you do to ensure the blessings of God do not take the place of God?*

### **WILL WE LAY IT DOWN?**

- *When you hear the phrase "lay it down", what emotions come up? (fear, relief, resistance, trust)*
- *Like the Rich man, is there "one thing" in the way of you following Him fully?*

# WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2026

## WILL WE LAY IT DOWN?

### ACT ON IT

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#### ENCOURAGE

*There is nothing in your life that should stand between you and your relationship with Jesus! And there is nothing worth hanging onto, or prioritizing over Jesus that will benefit your life like being a fully devoted follower of Jesus. If there is anything that the Lord is challenging you on, He is so kind to invite you to lay it down, make it second, and follow Him fully.*



#### ASK

*If the Lord were to test you today and to test your devotion and commitment to Him, what might He ask you to evaluate and what might He tell you is in the way of your devotion and commitment to Him?*



#### CHALLENGE

*Spend some quiet time with God and ask Him to examine your heart and test you. Can you lose it ALL and still come, follow Jesus? Is He the most important part of your life or is Jesus in second position? Are you ready to lay it all down and follow Him FULLY?*

## PRAYER

Father, we thank you for the truth of these words today. We know that you want our full devotion. We desire to be fully devoted to you, God. We pray today that NOTHING would stand in our way. That we would not hesitate to put you as number one in our lives, above even our families, our careers, ourselves. Nothing will stand in the way of our devotion to you, Jesus. Speak to us, God, reveal to us what we may be placing above you and with your help, we are ready to lay it all down. Father we love, and we thank you. In Jesus Name, Amen.