

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JANUARY 4, 2026
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SERMON OUTLINE

IMMOVABLE SOVEREIGNTY

ISAIAH 66:1-2 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Isaiah 66 opens the new year by reorienting God's people to the unshakable reality of who God is. As we move from a Year of Prayer into a Year of Preparation, this passage reminds us that preparation for God's work does not begin with plans, strategies, or structures, but with a right vision of God's sovereign rule. Isaiah declares that the Lord reigns from heaven, untouched by human limitation, and invites His people to align their lives under His immovable sovereignty.

The passage began with a declaration of God's absolute authority over all creation. The Lord proclaimed that heaven was His throne and the earth His footstool, emphasizing that no building, project, or human effort could contain Him. Everything that existed owed its origin to His creative power. At the start

of the year, this truth anchored God's people in confidence and humility—reminding them that their future rested not on their capacity to build for God, but on His sovereign rule over all things (Isaiah 66:1–2a).

Isaiah then shifted from God's throne to God's gaze. Though the Lord reigned supremely, He looked with favor upon those who were humble and contrite in spirit. God's immovable sovereignty did not lead to distance or detachment; instead, it invited surrender. As God's people prepared for what lay ahead, the Lord reminded them that readiness for His purposes flowed from hearts that depended fully on Him rather than trusting in self-reliance or human strength (Isaiah 66:2b).

The passage concluded by highlighting God's delight in

those who trembled at His Word. To tremble was to treat God's Word with reverence, obedience, and seriousness, recognizing His authority over their lives and direction. As God's people entered a Year of Preparation, He called them to shape their plans, priorities, and pursuits according to His revealed will. True preparation was not driven by ambition, but by obedience rooted in trust in God's sovereign reign (Isaiah 66:2c).

Isaiah 66:1–2 reminds us that the God who ruled faithfully in the past remains firmly enthroned over the future. As we begin this new year, we do so anchored in His immovable sovereignty—confident that as we humble ourselves before Him and submit to His Word, He will guide, sustain, and accomplish His purposes through us for His glory. ✨

FOLLOWING JESUS

REV. LITO VILLORIA

PARSON TO PERSON

As we begin 2026, we do so without fanfare—but with focus.

Over the past weeks, we have been journeying through a brief mini-sermon series that has reminded us of a simple but essential truth: our strength as a church is not found in momentum, programs, or plans, but in our faithful response to God's call. As we bring this series to a close today, that emphasis now leads us naturally into the direction God has set before us for the year ahead. It reminds us that God is more concerned with who we are becoming than how fast we are moving, and that lasting fruit always grows out of faithful obedience.

We are stepping into **2026 as our Year of Preparation for Vision 2037**. Preparation, however, does not begin with construction or strategy. It begins with alignment—aligning our hearts, our priorities, and our daily walk with Jesus Christ. Before we build, before we expand, before we multiply further, we must make sure that we are following well. A church can move quickly and still drift spiritually if its center is not anchored in Christ. This season calls us to slow down just enough to listen carefully, obey fully, and walk faithfully with the Lord who leads us, trusting that His timing and direction are always wise and good.

That is why our primary focus this year is clear: **to direct people to Jesus and help them walk closely with Him where God**

has planted us. Everything we do—our gatherings, our Growth Groups, our ministries, and our mission—must flow from a living, growing relationship with Christ. Programs may support this calling, but they can never replace a genuine walk with the Lord.

Later this month, we will first gather on **January 18** to celebrate our **29th Church Anniversary**—a time to thank God for His faithfulness through the years and to reaffirm His calling upon us as a church as we are prepared and recommissioned for the years ahead. On that Sunday, we will reflect on God's enduring work among us through a message titled **"Rebuilt, Restored, Recommissioned for the Nations"** from **Acts 15:16–18**, reminding us that God's faithfulness in the past propels us forward into His mission for the nations. Then, starting **January 25**, our church will begin a year-long sermon series on the Gospel of Luke, titled **Following Jesus**.

Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all people—the Son of Man who calls every follower to deny self, take up the cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). This Gospel does not merely inform us about Jesus; it invites us to walk with Him—through moments of faith and fear, obedience and surrender, joy and suffering—showing us what faithful discipleship looks like in everyday life.

Luke's Gospel also assures us that our faith rests on solid ground. Written as an orderly and carefully researched account, Luke reminds

us that God's saving work in Christ is neither accidental nor uncertain. Throughout this Gospel, we see a Savior who prays, who depends fully on the Spirit, and who intentionally forms disciples to bear witness beyond themselves. Following Jesus, then, is not a private journey but a shared mission shaped by God's unchanging purpose.

As we journey through Luke together, we will be reminded that discipleship is our **walk with Jesus**—knowing Him, loving Him, abiding in Him, serving Him, and proclaiming Him. At the same time, discipling is our **work for Jesus**—helping others walk with Him until they, too, lead others to follow. This rhythm of walking and working lies at the heart of our mission and the foundation of Vision 2037.

Vision 2037 has always been about more than a facility. It is about forming a people who follow Jesus faithfully and help others do the same—across generations, across communities, and across nations. The Gospel of Luke grounds us in that calling by reminding us that God's plan is unshakable, Christ's mission is clear, and His Spirit continues to empower His people today.

As we prepare for the years ahead, may 2026 be marked by a deepening walk with Christ. May we listen to His voice, follow His steps, and direct others to Him with clarity, compassion, and conviction.

Let us move forward together—**following Jesus.** ✨

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