



GOOD NEWS



WELCOME!

We are so excited that you will be joining us for the "Good News" series! Throughout this study, we will explore what it truly means to share the gospel—not just through words but through the way we live every day. The Good News of God's Kingdom is not just a distant hope; it is a present reality that Jesus proclaimed and inaugurated.

Sharing the Good News is more than telling an ancient story about Jesus. That story is the heart of our faith and the catalyst for sharing the gospel, but it is not the entirety of what it means to share it. The gospel is something we live- by embodying Jesus' message in our actions, relationships, and daily lives. When our lives align with the values of God's Kingdom, we become living expressions of the Good News to the world around us.

We believe that growth happens best in a community with responsible, faithful, and gracious accountability. Whether you are new to faith or have been following Jesus for years, this study offers a space to reflect, engage, and take action alongside others in a supportive environment.

Together, we will:

- ◆ Learn how sharing the gospel involves both speaking and living it.
- ◆ Discover how our everyday lives can reflect the hope and transformation of God's Kingdom.
- ◆ Take practical steps to love our neighbors, seek justice, and extend grace in meaningful ways.
- ◆ Encourage and challenge one another as we grow in our understanding and practice of sharing the Good News.

"Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." — **Saint Francis of Assisi**

Let's embrace the fullness of the gospel—not just as a message to be spoken, but as a life to be lived.

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The Spirit empowers us for Kingdom living. The Holy Spirit enables us to live as Kingdom people, equipping us to reflect God's power and love in our daily interactions. We can rely on the Spirit's leading to share the Good News with others.

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We are called to live out God's justice and mercy. God's Kingdom is marked by justice, mercy, and humility. Jesus stood with the marginalized and invites us to be agents of justice in the world, reflecting God's heart for restoration and righteousness.

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God empowers us to care for creation as Kingdom stewards. God calls us to care for creation as an act of worship and stewardship. We are invited to embrace our role as caretakers of the earth, reflecting God's love and purpose for the world He created.

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The Kingdom and the Future

God's Kingdom will one day be fully realized, bringing renewal, peace, and joy. Our hope in God's promises shapes how we live today, pointing others to the hope found in Christ.

STRUCTURE FOR EACH SESSION

KEY TRUTH:

Identify the core takeaway that connects God's Kingdom to our daily walk and challenges us to live it out.

READ:

Engage with Scripture, highlighting how God's Kingdom transforms our lives and invites us to live differently.

REFLECT:

Discuss thought-provoking questions that help connect the passage to your everyday life and deepen understanding.

RESPOND:

Share personal experiences and insights related to the session's theme. Consider practical ways to apply what you've learned and prepare your heart for prayer.

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Pray for one another, asking God for strength and guidance in living out the Good News.

NEXT STEPS:

Choose practical ways to apply what you've learned about sharing the Good News—whether through acts of kindness, intentional conversations, or serving others.



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

COME REGULARLY: Building a strong relationship with Jesus and others in your group begins with showing up consistently. Your presence matters—not just for you, but for the entire group. *Be present, not perfect—come as you are and be open to learning, growing, and encouraging one another along the way.*

PARTICIPATE: Your story and experiences reflect the character of God. Sharing what He is doing in your life helps others grow in their faith and deepens relationships within the group. *Listen actively and seek to understand before responding. Honor differences and recognize that everyone brings a unique perspective to the conversation.*

KEEP IT SAFE: We are all responsible for creating a space where everyone feels heard and loved. Give room for others to share by listening well and responding with kindness. Avoid quick answers or judgments and focus on offering support and encouragement. *Let's be patient and gracious, understanding that spiritual growth takes time and everyone is on their own journey.*

CONFIDENTIALITY: What's shared in the group stays in the group. Protecting each other's honesty and vulnerability fosters trust and growth. Respect and honor one another's stories with care and discretion.

KNOW & BE KNOWN: Take time to listen and truly know one another. As you do, you'll have opportunities to pray, encourage, and see God's Kingdom advance in each others' lives. *Commit to praying for your group members throughout the week, trusting that God is at work in every season of life.*

Note for Group Leaders: If a serious concern arises—such as harm to a person or a need for further pastoral care—encourage the individual to seek support from a pastor or bring it to a pastor's attention yourself. Ensuring safety and care is a priority for our community.

OPENING SESSION:

Jesus is King

***“Let the splendor of your life
be a prelude to the words you
speak. By your deeds, let all
see that you are a citizen
of heaven.”***

— Inspired by Ignatius of Antioch,
Letter to the Ephesians

OPENING SESSION: Jesus is King

READ:

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus announces the Good News that “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” His kingship changes everything—discipleship isn't just about knowing His commands but yielding to His reign in our lives.

REFLECT:

- Jesus' authority changes everything—when we yield to His leadership, our lives become a witness to His Kingdom.
- Worship and doubt can coexist. The disciples worshiped Jesus, yet some doubted. Trusting Jesus means stepping out even when we have questions.
- Saying “yes” to Jesus is where transformation begins. It's through our surrender that His Kingdom moves forward in and through us.

RESPOND:

How is God inviting you to say “yes” to His leading? Where is He calling you to trust Him more? What's one step of radical obedience you can take this week?

Key Truth:

Jesus is King, and discipleship begins with surrendering to His authority. When we embrace His rulership, we live out the Good News in every area of life.

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

- ◆ Pray for the courage to surrender fully to Jesus' authority.
- ◆ Ask God to help you take bold steps of obedience in your daily life.
- ◆ Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you need to say "yes" to God's leading.

NEXT STEPS?

Sharing the Good News means showing others that Jesus is King through our actions and decisions. This week, choose one way to embody His reign in your life.

- Encouraging someone with the hope of Jesus' reign in your life.
- Taking a step of obedience in an area you've been hesitant to surrender.
- Serving in a way that reflects God's rule in your community.

SESSION ONE:

The Kingdom is Here and Now Connecting to God

“The glory of God is a human being fully alive and the life of man consists in beholding God.”

– Saint Irenaeus
(2nd century Church Father)

Key Truth:

The Good News is that God’s Kingdom is already here, inviting us to live transformed lives as part of God’s renewing work in the world.

READ :

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus announces the Good News that “the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” In Jesus’ day, many believed that God’s best was a distant future reality that would either happen after their death or in an instantaneous and cosmic way. No one expected the kingdom to come the way that Jesus brought it. Just as our childhood beliefs changed as we grew, Jesus’ announcement of the Kingdom challenges us to shift our perspective and embrace the new reality that God’s reign is already here.

REFLECT:

- Jesus’ message was that the Kingdom is not just a distant future hope but is already breaking into the present.
- The call to “repent and believe” is an invitation to reorient our lives around this Kingdom reality.
- Saying “yes” to the Kingdom means living in ways that reflect Jesus daily.

RESPOND:

1. What’s one way you’ve seen God at work in your everyday life recently?
2. In what areas of your life do you struggle to see God’s reign at work?
3. How does the invitation to “repent and believe” challenge your current perspective or daily habits?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

♦ What's an area of your life where you'd like to experience more of God's presence?

NEXT STEPS:

Consider how you can share the Kingdom with someone this week—whether through kindness, conversation, or action.

- Consider offering to help a coworker or neighbor in a way that reflects God's love.
- Take time to share how God is working in your life with a friend.
- Invite others to volunteer with you at the Grayslake Community Care Center (CCC).

SESSION TWO: The Kingdom and the Cross

“Through the cross, we learn not only of Christ’s love for us, but of the power of that love to transform the world.”

– Festo Kivengere
(Ugandan bishop and evangelist)

Key Truth:

The cross establishes Jesus' victory and invites us to join His work of reconciliation.

READ :

Colossians 1:13-20

Jesus' death on the cross was not just about personal forgiveness but about defeating the powers of darkness and establishing His rule over all creation. Jesus redefined victory through the cross, contrasting cultural symbols of success with the self-giving love of Christ.

REFLECT:

- The cross isn't just about forgiveness; it's about victory, reconciliation, and transformation.
- True victory in Christ often looks different from worldly success.
- Saying “yes” to the cross means embracing both surrender and new life in Jesus.
- We embody the Good News by living out Christ’s reconciling love in our relationships.

RESPOND:

1. Can you think of a time when forgiveness—given or received—made a difference in your life?
2. Are there areas where you need to embrace the victory of the cross more fully?
3. How do you think showing grace to others could change your relationships?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

♦ Where in your life do you need God's peace and reconciliation? How can we pray for each other to take steps toward healing?

NEXT STEPS:

Consider how you can bring reconciliation into your relationships and reflect Christ's peace.

- Initiate reconciliation in a strained relationship.
- Share a story of how the cross has transformed your life.
- Offer forgiveness to someone you've struggled with.
- Be a peacemaker in your workplace or community.

SESSION THREE: The Kingdom and the Spirit

“You might as well try to hear without ears or breathe without lungs, as try to live a Christian life without the Holy Spirit.”

– D.L. Moody (Evangelist)

Key Truth:

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as Kingdom people, demonstrating God’s power and love in the world.

READ :

Acts 2:1-21

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost empowers the church to continue Jesus’ Kingdom work on earth. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a guide, comforter, and source of strength, equipping us to live out the values of God’s Kingdom with power and boldness. As Kingdom people, we are called to rely on the Spirit’s leading in every area of our lives.

REFLECT:

- ♦ The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as witnesses to Jesus and His Kingdom.
- ♦ The gifts of the Spirit demonstrate God's power and love in tangible ways.
- ♦ The Spirit's power isn't just for special moments; it's for everyday life.
- ♦ Radical obedience to God means listening and acting when The Spirit prompts us.

RESPOND:

1. Have you ever had a moment where you felt like God was leading or prompting you?
2. What are some areas where you desire more of the Holy Spirit's presence and leadership?
3. Where is God clearly calling you to step out in obedience?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

♦ Where do you need the Holy Spirit's power in your life?
How can we pray for God's Kingdom to be more fully realized through the Spirit's work in you?

NEXT STEPS:

This week, look for opportunities to share about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

- Offer to pray for someone who needs encouragement.
- Share an uplifting Bible verse with a friend who is having a difficult season.
- Invite someone to your church or small group and encourage them in their faith journey.

SESSION FOUR: The Kingdom and Justice

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.”

– The Talmud

Key Truth:

The Good News of the Kingdom is that God’s justice is breaking into the world, and we are called to be agents of mercy.

READ :

Luke 4:16-21 | Micah 6:8

Jesus’ mission is characterized by bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, reflecting the justice of God’s Kingdom. God’s justice is not just about punishment but about restoration and setting things right in the world. Just like moments when we’ve stood up for what we believe in, Jesus stood up for the marginalized and showed us what true justice looks like. His example challenges us to reflect God’s justice in our world by standing with the oppressed, acting with mercy, and walking humbly with God.

REFLECT:

- ♦ The Kingdom of God is marked by justice, where the oppressed are set free, and the marginalized are uplifted.
- ♦ Jesus’ ministry provides a vision of a world where God’s justice is realized; we embody this justice by treating people with dignity and compassion.
- ♦ Saying “yes” to justice means stepping into hard places with courage and grace.

RESPOND:

1. Who in your life has inspired you by the way they stand up for others?
2. What barriers keep you from stepping into advocacy and action for those in need?
3. What’s one small way you can show kindness or fairness in your daily interactions?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

♦ Where have you seen injustice in your life, relationships, community? How can we pray for courage and wisdom to respond with God's justice?

NEXT STEPS:

Think of one way this week to reflect God's justice.

- Speak up for someone facing unfair treatment at work or in your community.
- Volunteer at a local food pantry or shelter to serve those in need.
- Donate to or advocate for organizations fighting human trafficking or poverty.

SESSION FIVE: The Kingdom and Creation

“We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us.”

– Pope Francis
(Laudato Si')

Key Truth:

Caring for creation is an act of worship and stewardship in God's Kingdom.

READ :

Romans 8:18-25 | Genesis 2:15

Creation itself is groaning for the full revelation of God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom involves the restoration of all things, including the natural world, and we are called to care for creation as part of our Kingdom mission.

Note on Genesis 2: God gave humanity the mandate to “rule” over creation—not as harsh dominators, but as caretakers who reflect His loving stewardship. The Hebrew word used for “work” and “take care of” (Genesis 2:15) is ‘abad’, which is also used for the work of priests in the temple, indicating that caring for creation is a sacred responsibility, an act of worship and service to God. Just as we find joy in experiencing nature, we are called to partner with God in caring for it, reflecting the hope of a renewed world through our stewardship and daily choices.

REFLECT:

- ♦ The Kingdom of God is about the renewal of all things, including the natural world.
- ♦ Creation's groaning reflects the brokenness of the world and the hope of renewal/restoration.
- ♦ As Kingdom people, we are called to steward creation well and anticipate the day when all things will be made new.

RESPOND:

1. What's your favorite way to enjoy nature, and how does it make you feel connected to God?
2. Have you ever felt a responsibility to take better care of something in your life? What was it?
3. What's one practical way you can be more mindful of God's creation this week?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

- ◆ Where do you see brokenness in creation, and how can we partner with God in restoration? How can we encourage each other to take practical steps?

NEXT STEPS:

This week, take a practical step to reflect God's care for creation.

- Reduce waste by using reusable products and recycling consistently.
- Educate a friend about the biblical call to care for creation.
- Participate in a local park cleanup or tree-planting initiative.
- Pray for God's creation and those affected by environmental challenges.

SESSION SIX: The Kingdom and the Future

“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

– Augustine of Hippo,
Sermones 43.1

Key Truth:

Our hope in God’s Kingdom shapes how we live today.

READ :

Revelation 21:1-5 | 2 Peter 3:13

The final session highlights our future hope in God’s Kingdom—when He will fully reign, bringing renewal, peace, and justice to all creation. While the future can feel uncertain, Jesus offers a lasting hope that anchors us. Just as we anticipate life events, we are called to live now in anticipation of God’s full restoration.

REFLECT:

- Jesus will return to fully establish God’s Kingdom, bringing justice and peace.
- We live in the “already but not yet” of the Kingdom, shaping our daily choices in hope.
- The Kingdom is an invitation for all to experience God’s eternal reign.

RESPOND:

1. How does the hope of God’s future Kingdom impact your daily choices and mindset?
2. What areas of your life do you need to surrender in trust to God’s plan?
3. How can you share this hope with those around you in practical ways?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

♦ What's something in your life where you need to trust God for the future? How can we pray for each other to live in hope and expectation of His Kingdom?

NEXT STEPS:

Encourage someone this week by sharing the hope of the Kingdom.

- Have a conversation with a friend about how your faith gives you hope for the future.
- Write a letter of encouragement to someone facing a difficult time.
- Visit a senior living center and spend time with residents who need encouragement.



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