

Kingdom Life: Living in the Tension of Two Worlds

CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR SERMON SERIES – JAN. 11-FEB. 15, 2026

We live in a world that is sacred and contested...a place where God's Kingdom has come, yet not fully. We are citizens of this world, seeking its good, yet our allegiance belongs to another Kingdom. Jesus calls us to live faithfully in that tension...rooted here, reaching there.

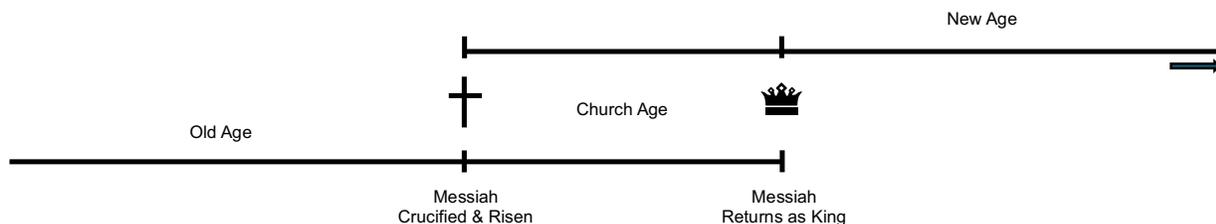
In this series, we'll explore what it means to live Kingdom Life in the real world...resting under God's weight, joining in God's work, and walking in Jesus' way. We'll begin by naming the struggle of life in a tangled world, then learn to rest under the reign of God who holds the outcomes. We'll be invited into meaningful, lasting work that participates in His renewal. And finally, we'll spend three weeks slowing down to learn three aspects of the Way of Jesus...a way marked by gentleness, presence, and mercy.

Together, we'll rediscover how the people of God can live with Kingdom integrity in a divided, hurried, and heavy world.

es-cha-to-l-o-gy - Eschatology is the study of how God's future has already broken into the present through Jesus...and how we live faithfully in that tension.

Part I — The Tension - *Kingdom Life in a Tangled World*

- **Date:** Jan. 11
- **Text:** Matthew 13:24–30; 36-43
- **Theme:** We live in the overlap of two kingdoms...the world as it is and the world as it will be. Like wheat growing among weeds, the kingdom of God takes root in a world where good and evil remain intertwined. Jesus doesn't call His followers to escape this mixed reality but to embody God's presence within it. In this contested space, we trust God's timing, practice patient faithfulness, and bear witness to God's Kingdom that is already breaking in.
- **Purpose:** To continue building a theological foundation of the 'already and not yet Kingdom of God and to provide a clear framework for this entire series.



Part II — God's Weight – *Resting in the Reign of God*

- **Date:** Jan. 18
- **Text:** Matthew 11:28-30
- **Theme:** God carries the outcomes. We live with peace because His sovereignty holds what we cannot. Kingdom life begins with rest, not striving.
- **Purpose:** To ground ourselves in trust and worship...before vision turns to work.

Part III — Our Work – *Partnering with God in Work that Endures*

- **Date:** Jan. 25
- **Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:56-58
- **Theme:** Because Jesus is risen, our labor is never in vain. We join God's renewal of all things with courage and joy. In other words, Kingdom work is not "busy work", it's "resurrection work".
- **Purpose:** To cast vision for faithful participation in God's redemptive activity...work that matters eternally.

Part IV — Jesus' Way – Three weeks exploring how partnering with God's enduring work must embody the way of Jesus. (NOTE: this is meant to be a glimpse into the way of Jesus and not an exhaustive list.)

Week 1: The Way of Mercy – Truth Held with Grace

- **Date:** Feb. 1
- **Text:** John 8:1-11
- **Theme:** Jesus embodies truth through mercy showing how conviction and compassion work together to heal.
- **Purpose:** To invite our community into a way of embodying truth through Mercy, holding deep conviction while remaining rooted in compassion.

Week 2: The Way of Gentleness – Power Under Restraint

- **Date:** Feb. 8
- **Text:** Matthew 12:15-21
- **Theme:** In an age of outrage, Jesus embodies a servant's power that heals with gentleness rather than escalating with quarrels.
- **Purpose:** To invite our community into a vision of living a Jesus-like, non-anxious presence and expressing authority through tenderness.

Week 3: The Way of Presence – Slow Enough to Love

- **Date:** Feb. 15
- **Text:** John 4:1-42
- **Theme:** Jesus lingers where others hurry past, crossing boundaries and dignifying the unseen.
- **Purpose:** To invite our community into a vision of attentive relational love that lingers where others rush and dignifies those whom the culture overlooks.

A Simple Weekly Practice for Cultivating Kingdom Life

We look back with gratitude, and we look forward with openness...learning to live faithfully in the overlap of God's Kingdom.

1. After the Sermon (Looking Back) — “Notice & Give Thanks”

(Sometime Sunday afternoon or evening)

Read: Read through the Biblical text from the previous sermon

Pray: (Write down your response)

- **God, where did Your Kingdom break in for me through this message?**
- **What phrase, image, or moment stayed with you?**
- **Where did you feel invited to trust, rest, or respond?**

Offer what you noticed back to God with gratitude and honesty.

2. Midweek (Looking Forward) — “Read & Receive”

(Sometime midweek Wednesday or Thursday)

Read: Read the Scripture for the coming Sunday sermon slowly.

(You don't need to study it...just receive it.)

Pray: (Write down your response)

- **Jesus, what do You want me to notice in this text?**
- **What might You be preparing in me before I hear it preached?**
- **Read the passage once or twice more and ask God to prepare your heart to receive His Word and walk His way.**