

Following the Way

Rooted in the Gospel – June 8, 2025

1. Understanding the Gospel as the Good News of Jesus' Kingship - *Read Acts 2:22-24*

Teacher Prompt: Peter focuses on Jesus' resurrection as the declaration of His kingship. The gospel is not just about salvation but about establishing Jesus' reign on earth.

- What does Peter emphasize about Jesus in his sermon?
- How does the resurrection affirm Jesus as King?
- In what ways does the resurrection declare Jesus' reign over all creation, and not just His role as Savior?
- How does understanding the gospel as the "good news" of Jesus' kingship change our view of salvation?

2. Jesus' Kingship and the Fulfillment of God's Promises - *Read Acts 2:25-35*

Teacher Prompt: Peter uses the Psalms to demonstrate that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. Psalm 16 and Psalm 110 point to the eternal reign of the Messiah, now fulfilled in Jesus through His resurrection and ascension.

- How does Peter use the Psalms to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be seated at God's right hand, and how does this fulfill the messianic hope?
- How does Jesus' resurrection demonstrate that He is the promised Messiah and reigning King?

3. The Gospel as the Foundation of Our Community Life - *Read Acts 2:36-41*

Teacher Prompt: Peter's declaration of Jesus as both "Lord and Christ" is foundational to the early church's response. Jesus is proclaimed as divine (Lord) and as the Messiah (Christ), shaping the church's identity and mission.

- How does Jesus being made "both Lord and Christ" shape the early church's response to the gospel?
- How does the gospel shape their identity and mission as a community under King Jesus?
- What practices or rhythms did they follow in response to the gospel, and how can we reflect these practices today in our church community?

4. Living in Rhythm with God's Kingdom - *Read Matthew 6:33 and Romans 12:1-2*

Teacher Prompt: Living in rhythm with God's Kingdom involves aligning all aspects of life with His mission, reflecting more than just obedience to rules. It's about active participation in God's work of restoration and reconciliation.

- What does it mean to live "in rhythm" with God's Kingdom?
- How does this differ from merely following rules or rituals?
- What practices today help us live in alignment with God's mission?
- How do these practices reflect our allegiance to Jesus as King?

5. Responses to Jesus' Kingship - *Read Acts 2:37-38*

Teacher Prompt: Peter calls the crowd to repentance and baptism as the response to Jesus' kingship. These acts are outward signs of submitting to Jesus' authority and entrance into His Kingdom.

- The crowd in Acts 2:37 is "cut to the heart" after Peter's sermon and asks, "What must we do?" Why do you think they asked this question at that moment? Was it guilt over their role in Jesus' crucifixion, regret for not recognizing Him as King, or something else?
- Why does Peter call for repentance and baptism as the response to the crowd's question? How do these actions symbolize submission to Jesus as King, and how do they align our lives with God's Kingdom?

6. Reflecting the Kingdom's Values - Read Matthew 5:3-10 (The Beatitudes)

Teacher Prompt: The Beatitudes describe the values of God's Kingdom—values that challenge and contrast with worldly values. As citizens of God's Kingdom, we are called to embody these values in our lives.

- How do the Beatitudes reflect the values of God's Kingdom?
- How do these values challenge the world's values?
- In what ways can we embody these Kingdom values in our daily lives?
- What does it look like to live as a citizen of God's Kingdom in a world that doesn't align with these values?

7. The "Already But Not Yet" of God's Kingdom - Read Romans 8:19-22 and Revelation 21:1-4

Teacher Prompt: The "already but not yet" of God's Kingdom highlights the tension between the present reality of Jesus' reign and the future fulfillment of His Kingdom.

- What does it mean that God's Kingdom has already been inaugurated, but is not yet fully realized?
- How does this "already but not yet" tension impact the way we live as Kingdom citizens today?
- How does this tension shape our understanding of hope and responsibility?

Prompt to Reflect:

As we close today's class, take a moment to think about the implications of the gospel for your daily life. Robin asks this question at the end of his sermon:

“Is the way I’m doing life bringing the reign of Jesus to others? Am I living under Jesus' reign in such a way that others can see His Kingdom in me?”

Next week's class will be a deeper conversation about Repentance and Baptism.