

Beyond Sunday

UpsideDown Kingdom — 1.18.2026

The Kingdom You've Always Longed for — Mark Tumney

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. When you hear the word “**belonging**,” what comes to mind first—a place, a group, a season of life, or a relationship?
2. Have you ever hoped for something deeply and then felt disappointed or learned to lower your

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon.

Read Matthew 5:1–12 together.

1. Which Beatitude stood out to you most this week, and why do you think it caught your attention?
2. How does hearing the Beatitudes as an announcement of God's Kingdom (not a list of virtues to achieve) change the way you understand them?
3. In the sermon, Jesus says “blessed” not because suffering is good, but because these postures make us able to receive the Kingdom
 - Which posture do you most identify with right now (poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry for righteousness, etc.)?
 - What might that reveal about what God is inviting you to receive?
4. The sermon describes people who still believed in God but stopped expecting too much from Him.
 - Which posture do you most identify with right now (poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry for righteousness, etc.)?
 - What might that reveal about what God is inviting you to receive?
5. Jesus tells the crowd their hope wasn't wrong—just too small.
 - What “smaller hopes” are we tempted to settle for instead of the fullness of God's Kingdom?
 - How does Jesus expand the vision of what God is doing?’
6. Jesus repeatedly says, “theirs is the kingdom.”
 - What does it mean to you personally to hear: “You belong”?
 - How does that challenge feelings of shame, exclusion, or inadequacy?

Give / Go

These questions help apply the sermon take-aways toward life change.

1. How does this passage invite you to **receive** the Kingdom rather than try to earn it?
2. Which Beatitude feels like an invitation for a faithful next step this week (mercy, peacemaking, honesty of heart, trusting God in grief, etc.)?
3. What is one small, tangible way you could carry restored hope into your home, workplace, or relationships this week?

Prayer

Read and reflect on Matthew 5:3:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Prayer Question:

- Where do you need God to gently fan hope back into flame right now, and how can the group be praying for you?

Going Deeper

Optional resources for further exploration of this week's themes.

- **Book:** [The Divine Conspiracy](#)
 - <https://a.co/d/h71KR2F>
- **Video:** [Bible Project Beattitudes](#)
 - <https://bibleproject.com/guides/the-beatitudes/>
- **Practice:** [Lectio Divina](#) on Matthew 5:1–12
 - [Description of Lectio Divina](#)