

2026-10-18 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide

Based on the Sermon: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done"

Overview

This sermon challenges believers to move beyond a compartmentalized faith and surrender every area of life to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Drawing from the account of Elijah and King Ahab in 1 Kings 18, the life of King David, and the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, the message calls Christians to pursue genuine holiness, intentional discipleship, and a wholehearted devotion to God rather than a convenient, segmented religion.

Key Takeaways

Either Jesus is Lord of all, or he is not Lord at all. Half-surrender is not true surrender.

Holiness is not legalism. It is the natural outflow of genuinely loving God and being filled with his Spirit.

Like King Ahab, believers can occupy a position of faith while abandoning God's commands and following the idols of culture and convenience.

The Lord's Prayer is not a recitation but a personal declaration: "Your kingdom come, your will be done -- in me, through me, right now."

The altar is not a one-time event. Living sacrifices crawl off the altar, and we must return continually.

Seeking first the kingdom of God is an intentional daily practice, not a passive assumption.

The fruit of a surrendered life draws others to Christ more powerfully than any argument or program.

Opening Question

Take a few minutes before diving into the material to get everyone talking.

When you think about the phrase "Jesus is Lord of my life," what does that actually look like on a typical Tuesday for you?

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Grace and Hardship

The sermon opened with a reflection on Paul's thorn in the flesh and his ultimate embrace of hardship as a means of experiencing God's grace more deeply. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul describes how God's response to his repeated pleading was that grace is sufficient -- more than enough to endure and even thrive through difficulty.

When hardship comes into your life, what is your first instinct? Do you tend to pray for removal, or have you ever reached a place of embracing it as Paul described?

The pastor drew a distinction between hardship caused by our own sin and hardship that simply exists because of a broken world. How does that distinction change the way you process difficulty in your own life?

Paul's response to God's answer was not frustration but a complete shift in mindset. What does it practically look like to change your mindset about a hardship you are currently facing?

Section 2: The Example of David vs. Ahab

The sermon contrasted King David, who consistently returned to God even after serious sin, with King Ahab, who abandoned God's commands and followed the idols of his culture.

The pastor described David as someone who "chased after God" -- not someone who was perfect, but someone who kept seeking. What habits or practices in your own life reflect that kind of pursuit? Where do you feel that pursuit has gone cold?

Elijah told Ahab, "You are the troubler of Israel," because Ahab had abandoned God's commands and followed the Baals. In what ways do you think the modern church, or individual believers, have abandoned God's commands in favor of cultural comfort?

Ahab was essentially a puppet of outside influences rather than a servant of

God. What outside influences in your life most compete with God's lordship? Be as honest as you are comfortable being.

Section 3: The Divided Plate

The pastor used the image of a divided plate -- with sections for work, home life, and religion -- to illustrate how believers often compartmentalize God rather than allowing him to be Lord over the whole plate.

If you honestly mapped out your week, how large would the "God" section of your plate actually be compared to work, entertainment, family, and personal time?

The pastor said, "You're either in gear going forward, or even if you think you're in neutral, you're going backwards." Do you agree with that assessment of the Christian life? Why or why not?

What is one specific area of your life -- a relationship, a habit, a career decision, a financial choice -- that you have not fully invited God into? What would it look like to open that room to him?

Section 4: Thy Kingdom Come

The sermon focused on Matthew 6:9-10, where Jesus teaches his disciples to pray that God's kingdom would come and his will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. The pastor challenged the group to make this personal -- not just a prayer for the world, but a prayer for transformation within each believer.

How often do you pray with the posture of "What can I do for you today, God?" versus "God, here is what I need from you"? What would it look like to shift that balance?

The pastor said that most of us do not get up in the morning asking, "God, what would my life look like if I surrendered in this way?" What would it take to make that a daily practice for you?

The sermon described how changed lives create a domino effect that draws others to Christ -- not through arguments, but through visible transformation. Can you think of a person in your life whose changed life drew you closer to God? What was it about them that made an impact?

Section 5: Holiness and Witness

The pastor challenged the group to take seriously the biblical call to holiness, not as a list of rules, but as the natural result of the Spirit working within a surrendered believer.

The pastor asked, "Did anybody pray this week, Lord, what does my holiness look like to you?" Have you ever prayed that prayer? If you were to pray it right now, what do you think God might say?

The sermon drew a distinction between being "good" by the world's standards and being "godly" by the Spirit's work. What is the difference in practice? Can you think of examples from your own life where you settled for being good rather than pursuing godliness?

The pastor described the danger of becoming so passive that no one around us knows how much of a Christian we are. At the same time, he cautioned against being confrontational. How do you find the balance between being bold and being compassionate in your witness to others?

Section 6: The Altar

The pastor revisited the scene from 1 Kings 18 where Elijah rebuilds the altar and calls the people together. He connected this to the idea of a personal altar -- any place or moment of genuine surrender to God.

Do you remember a specific moment of surrender in your life -- a time when you genuinely laid something down before God? What happened as a result?

The pastor said, "The problem with living sacrifices is we crawl off the altar."

What causes you to crawl off? What tends to pull you away from a place of surrender?

What would it mean for you, practically, to return to the altar this week? What would you need to surrender, and what would that act of surrender look like?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your next group meeting.

DAILY PRAYER SHIFT: For the next seven days, begin your morning prayer with the question, "God, what can I do for you today?" Keep a brief journal of what comes to mind and what you do in response.

PLATE AUDIT: Track your time honestly for one week. At the end of the week, look at how much time was devoted to God in prayer, Scripture, service, and witness compared to other areas of life. Bring your honest findings back to the group.

HOLINESS PRAYER: Pray specifically, "Lord, what does my holiness look like to you? What do I need to embrace, and what do I need to release?" Write down what comes to mind and share it with a trusted accountability partner.

OPEN THE ROOM: Identify one area of your life you have not fully surrendered to God. This week, pray specifically over that area and invite God into it. Ask a group member to check in with you about it.

INTENTIONAL WITNESS: Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week, and ask God to open one natural opportunity for you to share what he has done in your life.

RETURN TO THE ALTAR: Find a specific time and place this week to get alone with God and make a fresh act of surrender. It does not need to be

dramatic. It just needs to be real.

Closing Reflection

The pastor closed with this challenge: if Jesus really is Lord of all, then every decision -- including how we spend our time, how we treat our families, how we vote, how we work, and how we witness -- falls under his authority and is shaped by his kingdom.

Before closing in prayer, take a moment for each person to answer this question silently or aloud:

On a scale of one to ten, how much of your life would you say is genuinely under the lordship of Jesus Christ right now? What would it take to move that number up by even one point?

Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying together the prayer the pastor modeled in the sermon -- not as a recitation, but as a personal declaration. Ask God to speak to each person's heart about the areas where he is not yet fully Lord, and invite his kingdom to come and his will to be done in each of your lives, just as it is in heaven.

Scripture References for Further Study

1 Kings 18 -- Elijah, Ahab, and the confrontation on Mount Carmel

2 Corinthians 12 -- Paul's thorn in the flesh and the sufficiency of grace

Matthew 6:9-13 -- The Lord's Prayer

Romans 12:1-2 -- The call to be a living sacrifice

John 17 -- Jesus's high priestly prayer

Psalms 139 -- God's intimate knowledge of each person

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 -- The Lord our God is one

Matthew 28:19-20 -- The Great Commission