



## THE BIG IDEA

The reality of the good news is the reality of a God who meets us where we are right now. The Kingdom of God is not some far off thing in the future, it's here and now when we embrace the presence of God in us and each other.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

We often think of God and heaven as some far off thing in the future. But the Sermon on the mount calls us to consider our beliefs about the Kingdom of God here and now. To be meek, to long for righteousness, to embrace the eternal things in life, these are the ways we'll see the kingdom break into our reality here on earth.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Acknowledge the light, embrace the presence and mystery of God, value the eternal things in life and move towards meekness before God

## START HERE:

The Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount offer us a more spacious world, a world where we do not have to explain everything, fix everything, or control anything beyond ourselves, a world where we can allow a Larger Mystery to work itself out through us and in us. These things are done to us more than anything we can do. The Beatitudes are about changing "me," not changing other people.

Wonderfully, it is not about being right anymore. We live, of course, in the tension and mystery between two worlds: the world where we need to prove that we are right and the world of daily right relationship with ourselves and others. One demands dominative power and concern with changing other people; the other is a self-renewing call to right relationship, and is primarily about changing ourselves.

If you missed the message on Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

## CONVERSATION GUIDE:

### Matthew 5:3-4

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

### The Presence of God

Begin by reading the beatitudes with your group. Reflect on how you think of the Kingdom of God when you read them. Do you hear them as a prescription for heaven or a description of life?

Richard Rohr says, "We cannot attain the presence of God

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- OnFaith blog "Is this what the Kingdom of God is like?" - [READ](#)
- Forefront blog "Things That Are Shaping Us" series - [READ](#)
- Audio Book: *Sermon on the Mount* - [LISTEN](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Marriage Retreat - Feb 6 & 7  
Registration is still open for a few more days!  
[forefrontnyc.com/marriageretreat](http://forefrontnyc.com/marriageretreat)
- Baptism Celebration - Feb 4  
Email Ryan if you are interested in being baptized or would like more information.
- Breeze - Don't forget to set-up your recurring gift through our new online giving system.  
[forefrontnyc.com/give](http://forefrontnyc.com/give)

ALL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR [CALENDAR PAGE](#).

because we are already totally in the presence of God. What is absent is awareness."

Watch this video from [Brian McLaren](#) with your group.

What phrases & ideas stand out to you in this video?

How do the words of Brian McLaren and the words of Richard Rohr help us define what it means to see the Kingdom of God on earth? How can we embrace the presence of God in our world today?

### Jesus & the Kingdom of God

There are many parables and teachings from Jesus to help us grasp his definition of the Kingdom of God. Read a couple of these passages together:

**Luke 17: 20-21 and John 15: 9-11**

How do these passages help us understand how Jesus defines the Kingdom of God?

**"Meekness" can be very simply defined as humility toward God and toward others.**

**"Righteousness" can be simply defined as justice or right standing within a community.**

Discuss your understanding of meekness and righteousness. How do these words and Biblical themes help us to understand what it means to see the Kingdom of God?

What are some ways we can embrace the presence of God and his Kingdom in our lives and our city?

## BENEDICTION:

In closing, pray the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.