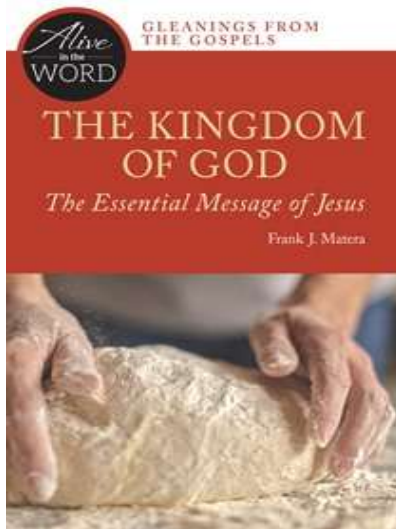


THIS STUDY BEGINS ON  
May 6th, 2025, AT 7PM  
AND RUNS FOR 8 TUESDAYS

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



The kingdom of God is the central theme of Jesus' preaching. Through stories and images, Jesus teaches that God's presence among us-his powerful reign-is both mighty and quiet, both welcoming and demanding. As small as a seed and as grand as a great dinner party, the kingdom of God grows among us and transforms everyone who embraces it. In this volume of *Alive in the Word*, New Testament scholar Frank Matera explores three gospel passages that will orient you to this essential, transforming message of Jesus.

## JESUS INTRODUCES THE KINGDOM OF GOD



The crowd listening to Jesus had been suffering under the Roman Empire's greed and violence for many years. And they were longing for a new kind of empire, God's heavenly Kingdom in the skies, to become real on Earth. And though this crowd was made up of those

societies deemed unimportant, Jesus said that his Kingdom would begin with them and their willingness to choose love. He began his Sermon on the Mount with these words:

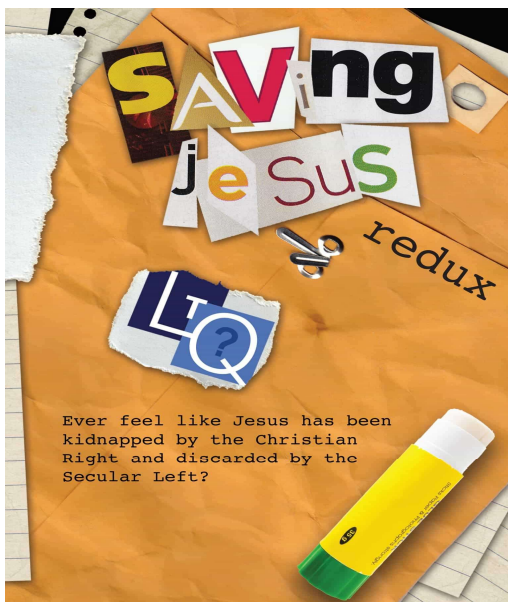
Matthew 5:3NASB, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus uses the phrase “Kingdom of the skies” to talk about a new kind of reality. We live in a world of violence and corruption, a world where might makes right. But for Jesus, there is a realm where generosity reigns, where there’s justice and peace, and where love is the final word. And that world might as well be up in the skies. It’s beyond us. God’s heavenly reality can seem far off. But Jesus claimed that Heaven was coming to Earth here and now, beginning with these people.

OUR NEXT STUDY BEGINS IN  
Late July or Early August 2025, AT 7PM  
AND RUNS FOR 6 TUESDAYS

LIVING THE QUESTIONS:  
SAVING JESUS REDUX

Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Saving Jesus Redux is total revision of Living the Question’s



popular 12-session DVD-based small group exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. New contributors including Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, and Robin Meyers join Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and a host of others for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for today.

## THEMES

1. Intro: Jesus Through the Ages
2. Who was Jesus?
3. What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
4. The World into Which Jesus Was Born
5. Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
6. Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
7. Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
8. Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
9. Who Killed Jesus?
10. The Atonement
11. The Resurrection of Christ
12. Why Jesus Is Worth Saving