SERIES INTRODUCTION

What if the Creator arrived in creation as creation? In Jesus He did. God’s Son came in the flesh so that we could know the Father. He came as a prophet telling us of grace and as a priest dispensing grace to those who crossed His path. But He also came as a King. And that’s where this gets a bit dicey. Jesus’ kingship is one of the most common objections to Christianity. Our post-modern age rejects exclusive claims. Add to that our rugged American individualism—land of the free and the brave—and it feels unnatural to bow to any king. However, that is the call when it comes to Jesus. He delights to save us but intends to rule us too. Though receptive to our appreciation, King Jesus is worthy of our allegiance. He will ask a lot from you. But never what He isn’t willing to provide for you. Maybe it isn’t the idea of a king we reject. We’re just desperate for a good one. Thankfully, Jesus is the very best. Might you bow your knee in honor of this King of Glory? Surrender might feel risky. Might it be riskier…not to? Let’s find out together.

HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

Each journal we try to build in something a little different. This time, since our theme is “Honor Jesus as King,” we’ve built in a “Laying It Down” section. Each week we will prayerfully lay down one area of our lives, yielding it to Jesus, asking Him to be Lord over that part of us in a new way.

Other than that, much remains the same. We provide:

1. Group Discussion Questions – If you’re not already in a Community Group that is discussing the weekly themes and sermons, we encourage you to join one or form your own. (Reach out to Pastor Bill at b craig@hopemason.org for ideas.) Questions with an asterisk are recommended discussion questions, along with the “For Further Reflection” questions at the end of each week.

2. “For Further Reflection” Questions – For those of you who like to do a deeper dive, we’ve provided questions to take you a little further into the passage and theme for the week.


4. Worship Song - In the Tuesday e-mail, we’ll be including a “Song of the Week” that relates to the Scripture theme for the week. We recommend listening to that song on Wednesday as part of your time with God.
35-DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Below is a prayer we'd like to encourage you to pray daily for the next 35 days, over the course of this sermon series. If you'd like to accept the challenge, e-mail Pastor Bill at bcraig@hopemason.org and he'll send occasional e-mail reminders and reflections throughout the 35 days.

"Here's my calendar, Jesus, I want to honor You with my time.

Here's my wallet, I want to honor You with my resources.

Here's my past, I want to heal and honor You with my future.

Here's my sin, I confess it and want to honor You by turning from it.

Here's my thought-life. Here are my dreams.

Here's what I feel You want me to do, that I am unwilling to do.

Here's what I feel You want me to avoid that I still pursue.

Here's me. All of me.

I wouldn't risk bowing to anyone else.

No other king is worthy.

You, humble, mighty King Jesus, are the only one.

Your name, Jesus, is the only name in heaven and on earth worthy of my allegiance.

Take your rightful place on the throne of my life."
### MONDAY

**Prayer:** Pray the daily prayer for this series.

**Context:** Our passage for this week is Galatians 2:15-21, but before reading, let’s look at the context. Look over Galatians 1:1-2:14. What key themes do you see? How do the themes in 2:15-21 connect to what came before in the letter?

**Reflect:** *Being “justified” and being “made righteous” (“right with God”) are the same Greek word. Religions say that you become justified before God through obedience to certain laws…and hoping that your obedience is enough. What does Paul say in this passage about being justified by obeying the law?

*According to this passage, how are we justified, and how does that change the way we live?

### TUESDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Our memory verse for this series is Galatians 2:20. Read it slowly multiple times and reflect on it as you read.

> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

**Pray and Read:** Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Galatians 2:15-21.

**Reflect:** *What does this passage teach us about Jesus (the One who is our King)? Linger on those truths and thank God for them.

*Galatians 2:20 is such a famous verse, but part of it can be hard to understand. Write out the verse in your own words, reflecting what you think it means.
WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Galatians 2:15-21.

Reflect: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Galatians 2:15-21 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

For Further Reflection: Reflect on one or more of the questions in the “For Further Reflection” section at the end of this week’s journal.

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Galatians 2:15-21.

Lay It Down: Each week, we’ll lay down before Jesus one aspect of our lives, committing it to His Lordship. Today we’re laying down our calendars (time). It may help to physically lay down your calendar before God, to symbolize you offering Him your time.

- “Jesus, in what ways are You pleased by the way I’m using the time You’ve given me?”
- “What do You want me to change about how I’m using time? Where am I wasting time or dishonoring You with how I’m using time? What are the ‘good’ things that I’m doing that might be replaced with ‘better’ things?” Write down on a Notes page any thoughts that come.
FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Galatians 2:15-21.
Shapes: *How do you see all four of our “shapes” in this passage?

*Receive Gospel Grace: Where do we see God's grace in this passage?

*Love God: What truths in this passage inspire in you worship and gratitude to God? Write them below and spend some time praising God for them.

*Love One Another: What brother or sister in Christ could you encourage today with the knowledge that they have been justified, made right with God, through faith in Him? Consider sending them a text or note.

*Love the World: Pray for people of other religions who are trying to earn God’s favor through obedience to the law (by name if you know them).
FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

• *How does our passage for today connect specifically to Paul’s confrontation of Peter in verses 11-14?

• Write your own definitions of key terms in this passage, then look them up in a Bible dictionary: justification, faith, righteousness.

• *See what else Paul says about being “justified” in his letter to the Galatians (3:8, 3:11, 3:24, and 5:4).

• *Has there been a time in your life where you tried to be right with God through obedience to the law, or doing good deeds? (It could even be now.) What was that like? What impact does it make on your life when you know you are made right with Him through faith?

• How would you put in your own words Paul’s argument in verses 17-18?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Opening discussion question: What kind of religious background did you grow up with? (Legalistic? Permissive? Not religious?) What were the primary gifts of that upbringing, and what have been the challenges of it?

• Discuss what your prayer experience was like when you laid down your time before the Lord. Did any meaningful thoughts or insights come to mind?

• Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them and see the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
WEEK 2: JULY 11 - 15

MONDAY

Context: *Our passage for this week is Hebrews 2:5-18, but before reading, let’s look at the context. Read Hebrews 1:1-2:4. What is the author talking about?

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Hebrews 2:5-18.

Reflect: *Jot down some first impressions of key themes or ideas in the passage. We’ll look more deeply at the passage in the next couple of days.

*Write on the Notes page all the questions you have about this passage. Put a star by the most important of those questions.

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Hebrews 2:5-18.

Reflect: This passage is a challenging one. Go through and see if you can replace all the occurrences of “he” and “him” with the person/people represented. It could be the Father, Jesus, or humanity in general.

*What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? (Note: Verse 6-8, including the “him’s” of verse 8, may be talking about humanity in general. See what you think.)
WEEK 2: JULY 11 - 15

WEDNESDAY

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

**Pray:** Pray the daily prayer for this series.

**Reflect:** “Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Hebrews 2:5-18 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

For Further Reflection: Reflect on one or more of the questions in the “For Further Reflection” section at the end of this week’s journal.

THURSDAY

**Scripture Memory:** Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

**Pray and Read:** Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Hebrews 2:5-18.

**Lay It Down:** Each week, we’ll lay down before Jesus one aspect of our lives, committing it to His Lordship. Today we’re laying down our relationships (family, friendships, etc.). It may help to physically lay down pictures of them to symbolize you committing those relationships to Him.

- “Jesus, in what ways are You pleased with how I’m loving the people who are my closest relationships?”
- “What do You want me to change about how I’m loving them? Am I placing them at the center of my life instead of You? How am I not trusting You to work in their lives? How am I falling short of loving them as You would have me?” Write down on a Notes page any thoughts that come.
FRIDAY

**Pray and Read:** Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Hebrews 2:5-18.


**Shapes:** *How are all four of our “shapes” reflected in these passages?

*Receive Gospel Grace:* Where do we see God’s grace in this passage?

*Love God:* Of the things we learn about Jesus (that you wrote on Tuesday), which most deepen your love and wonder of Him?

*Love One Another:* What brother or sister in Christ can you encourage with these truths today?

*Love the World:* Think of someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach.” Of the things we learn about Jesus in this passage, which do you most want to pray that they would come to know for themselves? Pray that for them!
FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

• Look up the Old Testament verses quoted in this passage. They are: Psalm 8:4-6, Psalm 22:22 and Isaiah 8:18, remembering to check the context of those verses. (It is unknown what verse the writer of Hebrews was quoting with the phrase, “I will put my trust in him.”) How does understanding the Old Testament context help you understand what the writer of Hebrews is saying here?

• Verse 10 says that it was “fitting” that the Father should make Jesus, “the founder of their salvation,” perfect through suffering. But wasn’t Jesus already “perfect”? What do you think that means?

• What does this passage say about death?

• Why, according to this passage, did the eternal Son of God need to become human?

• How did Jesus “suffer when tempted,” and how is that a help to us? (Verse 18)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Opening question: What qualities first come to mind when you think about Jesus? Now read Hebrews 2:5-18. How does this passage reflect or add to your initial picture of Jesus?

• Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.

• Discuss what your prayer experience was like when you laid down your relationships before the Lord. Did any meaningful thoughts or insights come to mind?

• Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps…we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).

• See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
YOUR NOTES

WEEK 3: JULY 18 - 22
WEEK 3: JULY 18 - 22

MONDAY


Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Acts 2:22-41.

Reflect: *List all the things this passage says about God (the Father), Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

*What insight does that give you about how the Trinity works?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Acts 2:22-41.

Reflect: *A big part of this sermon is Peter’s comments on David. Read Psalm 16 (the psalm Peter quotes in verses 25-28). How does Peter make the connection between Jesus and what David says in that Psalm? What is helpful about that? What questions do you have about the connections David makes?

*Re-read verses 37-41. How does Peter call them to respond to the gospel? What are the promises for those who receive it? Thank God for them!
WEDNESDAY

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for this series.

Reflect: *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Acts 2:22-41 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

For Further Reflection: Reflect on one or more of the questions in the “For Further Reflection” section at the end of this week’s journal.

THURSDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Acts 2:22-41.

Lay It Down: Each week, we’ll lay down before Jesus one aspect of our lives, committing it to His Lordship. Today we’re laying down our wallets, representing money. It may help to physically lay down your wallet to symbolize you offering Him all of your financial assets.

• “Jesus, in what ways are You pleased by the way I’m using the financial resources You’ve given me?”

• “What do You want me to change about how I’m using money? Where am I wasting or dishonoring You with how I’m using money? How might You have me live on less to free up more to give?” Write down on a Notes page any thoughts that come.
FRI\DAY

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Acts 2:22-41.

Read: From the “Honor Jesus as King” chapter in Pastor Stephen’s book, Multiply, read the “Supremacy” section on pages 136-140.

Shapes: *How do all four of our “shapes” show up in this passage?

*Receive Gospel Grace: Where do we see God’s grace?

*Love God: What is one highlight about what you learned about God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) in this passage? Thank God for that.

*Love One Another: What part of this passage might be an encouragement to a brother or sister in Christ at Hope? Pray for them, and consider sending them a text or note, telling them.

*Love the World: Pray for people you know who are “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that they will receive the gospel, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit, like the three thousand on Pentecost.
FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

• What does Peter say about who actually did the miracles, and what was the purpose of them? Is there anything new or surprising for you in that?

• In verse 23, Peter says that Jesus was “delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,” and yet he said they were the ones responsible for crucifying Him “by the hands of lawless men” (presumably the Romans). So how does that work, God’s plan and people’s responsibility?

• In verse 24, Peter says that “it was not possible for (Jesus) to be held by (death).” We tend to think that the resurrection is the impossible part, but Peter says that Jesus staying dead would have been impossible. If you believe in Jesus, the same is true of you. It is impossible for death to hold you. Reflect on your own death. What is scary to you about that? What (if anything) is exciting? Then write a prayer to God about that.

• In verse 30, Peter calls David a prophet. We don’t often think of David as a prophet. Read what Peter says about prophets in 1 Peter 1:10-12 and 2 Peter 1:16-21. What insights do these verses give us about David pointing to Christ?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Opening question: When in your life did Jesus become more than just a name to you?

• Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.

• Discuss what your prayer experience was like when you laid down your finances before the Lord. Did any meaningful thoughts or insights come to mind?

• Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps…we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).

• See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
WEEK 4: JULY 25 - 29

MONDAY

Context: *Our passage for this week is Philippians 2:5-11, but before reading, let’s look at the context. Read Philippians 1:1-2:4. What is Paul talking about?

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Philippians 2:5-11.

Reflect: *A primary concern of Paul’s in the verses before our passage is unity in the church (1:27, 2:2-4). How does this teaching about Jesus help advance this point?

TRACE JESUS’ “DESCENT” in this passage, from the most glory, marking each step to its lowest point, then back up. What is Paul calling us to imitate here? Write down examples of what that might look like in your life, even today?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Philippians 2:5-11.


Who is a brother or sister in Christ at Hope that you see living out the humility of Jesus? Thank God for them and consider sending them a text or note telling them!
**WEDNESDAY**

**Worship in Song:** Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

**Pray:** Pray the daily prayer for this series.

**Reflect:** *Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read Philippians 2:5-11 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

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**For Further Reflection:** Reflect on one or more of the questions in the “For Further Reflection” section at the end of this week’s journal.

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**THURSDAY**

**Scripture Memory:** Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

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**Pray and Read:** Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read 2 Corinthians 8:9 (yes, a different verse than we’ve been reading).

**Lay It Down:** Each week, we’ll lay down before Jesus one aspect of our lives, committing it to His Lordship. Today we’re laying down our past and present sins. It may help to physically lie down to symbolize you offering yourself to Him.

- “Jesus, for what sins of the past am I holding on to guilt? Thank You for Your grace! Help me to receive it in a new way today!”

- “In what ways am I now living in disobedience to You? What am I doing that You’re calling me to stop doing? What am I not doing that You’re calling me to do? Where am I settling for ‘half-obedience’ and not yielding completely to You?” Write down on a Notes page any thoughts that come. With whom could you share that to ask for their prayer and accountability?
FRIDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read Philippians 2:5-11.

Read: From the “Honor Jesus as King” chapter in Pastor Stephen’s book, Multiply, read the “Humility” section on pages 140-144.

Shapes: *How do all four of our “shapes” show up in this passage?

*Receive Gospel Grace: Where do we see God’s grace?

*Love God: What do we learn about God, and how we love Him?

*Love One Another: How are you contributing to the unity of the people at Hope through following Jesus’ example? How might you?

*Love the World: Re-read Philippians 2:10-11. Pray for people you know who are “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that they would willingly bow their knee before Jesus as their King.
FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- What connections do you see between Jesus, as Paul talks about Him in our passage for this week (Philippians 2:5-11) and how Paul is calling the church to treat one another in 2:1-4?
- How do we see Jesus’ humility evidenced even before He took on human flesh? What does it mean to say that God is humble?
- How do we see the Father’s love for the Son, and the Son’s love for the Father, in this passage? (Don’t miss verses 10-11!)
- What do you think it means that every knee “under the earth” will bow before Jesus, and their tongues confess that Jesus is Lord (vv. 10-11)?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Opening question: Talk about a person you have known in your life (past or present) that displayed humility. What about them demonstrated humility to you?
- Refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.
- This could be a little risky, but give people the chance to share what their prayer experience was like when they laid down their sins (past and present) before the Lord. Did any meaningful thoughts or insights come to mind?
- Recite the Scripture memory verse together (you can read it together this week if that helps…we recommend using the ESV version so we’re all learning the same translation).
- See the “For Further Reflection” section for more ideas.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
WEEK 5: AUGUST 1 - 5

MONDAY

Context: Our passage for this week is John 15:9-17, but before reading, let’s look at the context. Skim the chapters before, especially chapters 14 and 15:1-8. What is the context?

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read John 15:9-17.

Reflect: First of all, stop and reflect on the astounding truth of verse 9! Thank God for that! Then reflect on the word “abide.” It means to remain, to stay (in a place), to live. What does Jesus say about “abiding” in this passage?

*Reflect on what Jesus says about His commandments in this passage. What is His command? What is the result of obeying His commands? What is His purpose in giving the commands?

TUESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Pray: Pray the daily prayer for this series.

Reflect: Do the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture. Read John 15:9-17 “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, and ask the Lord for “1” thing that He wants to communicate to you through this passage. Write your notes below.

Read: From the “Honor Jesus as King” chapter in Pastor Stephen’s book, Multiply, read the “Obedience” section on pages 144-148.
WEEK 5: AUGUST 1 - 5

WEDNESDAY

Scripture Memory: Write out Galatians 2:20. Reflect on it as you write.

Worship in Song: Check the Tuesday e-mail from Hope and listen to the “Song of the Week.”

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read John 15:9-17.

Lay It Down: Today we’re laying down our hopes and dreams for the future:

- “Jesus, in what ways are You pleased with my hopes and dreams for myself and others?”
- “Some of my dreams might not be Yours. I lay them down before You, and entrust them to You.” Write down thoughts on a Notes page.

THURSDAY

Pray and Read: Pray the daily prayer for this series, then read John 15:9-17.

Barriers: *Today and tomorrow, we look back over the whole series to prayerfully reflect on the theme, “Honor Jesus as King.” As you think about honoring Jesus as King, what is hard for you about that? Some examples might be:

- Control – “I’m afraid to let go!”
- Confusion – “I don’t know what Jesus wants!”
- Desire – “If I’m honest, I have to admit that I sometimes don’t want what Jesus wants.”
- Other –

Share that barrier with a trusted friend. Ask them to pray with and for you, that God would help you overcome that barrier and live a life of deeper love for His people.

*Of the five areas of our lives that we laid down before Jesus over the course of this series (time, relationships, money, sin, and hopes/dreams), which was hardest to lay down? Why do you think that is?
FRIDAY

Consider gathering some people from Hope to discuss these with you in the coming week.

Review – *Look back over the last five weeks. What has God been saying to you? Write down some key thoughts and ideas.

Question – *What is your biggest question right now about “Honoring Jesus as King”?

Next Step – *What is ONE next step God might have you take to honor Jesus as King in your life? You may have already written some down over the last five weeks. New ones may come to mind. You can also see “Possible Next Steps” for further ideas. Write some ideas below and put a star by the one you sense God leading you to take. Then share it with a friend!

Benefits – *What benefits will come to you as you grow to honor Jesus as King? What benefits might come to God’s people at Hope from your growing obedience? What benefits might come to people outside Hope?
GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Opening question: When someone tells you that you have to (or can’t) do something, what is your natural reaction? (Follow the rules? Do the opposite? Other?) Explain.

• We suggest using the summary questions on Thursday and Friday as your group discussion this week, wrapping up the series.

• If you have additional time, you could discuss what your prayer experience was like when you laid down your hopes and dreams before the Lord. You can also refer to this week’s questions that have an “*” by them. These are suggested discussion questions.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS TO “HONOR JESUS AS KING”

• One of the most helpful things in seeking to live a life in obedience to Jesus as our King is the prayer and encouragement of brothers or sisters in Christ. Consider starting a Triad. Contact Pastor Bill at bcraig@hopemason.org for more information.

• Read a book or article about honoring Jesus as King:
  • *Follow Me* by David Platt
  • *The Gospel At Work* by Sebastian Traeger and Greg Gilbert
  • *King’s Cross* by Tim Keller
  • *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World* by John Piper and Justin Taylor
  • *A Long Obedience In the Same Direction* by Eugene Peterson
  • *A Life of Obedience* by Andrew Murray
  • *What Jesus Demands From the World* by John Piper (also available as a one-hour talk at The Gospel Coalition Conference in 2015).
  • “My Heart, Christ’s Home” article by Bob Munger (text can be found online)

• Brainstorm other steps you could take: