

SERMON NOTES

Foundations

Living for God's Kingdom
Matthew 13

Brian Mayfield
Lead Pastor

I have a daily decision to make: *What perspective am I prioritizing?*

Jesus spoke in PARABLES to _____ the crowd while also _____ the disciples.

The distinction is that a disciple _____ to _____.

Kingdom _____

The gospel is always growing and the Kingdom is always advancing.

Kingdom _____

The Kingdom brings joy to those who receive it and _____ to those who don't.

Kingdom _____

The value of the Kingdom of God far surpasses anything this world has to offer.
Philippians 3:7-8

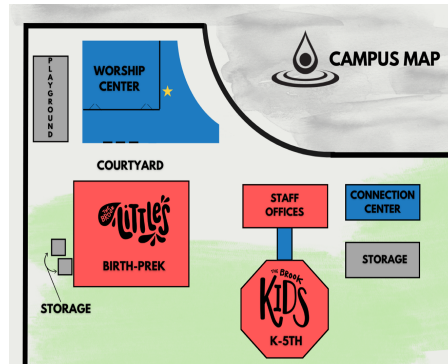
Additional Scriptures

Isaiah 55:11, John 1:12, Matthew 5:11-12, 16:24-25, Hebrews 12:22-28



Follow along with today's message
on the YouVersion Bible App.
Go to More // Events // The Brook.

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the brook

worship. grow. serve. *together.*

January 11, 2026



Our Mission & Strategy

Here at The Brook, our mission is to live intentionally to bring God's Kingdom everywhere we go! We believe we can best accomplish our mission by following this simple strategy:



WORSHIP

If you are reading this, then that means that you have decided to join us for a morning of worship. This is the first step in our strategy. We believe that corporate worship should be a central part of a believer's life, but also that worship is a way of life, striving to put Christ first in everything that we say and do.



GROW

As a general rule, healthy things grow. This is true for your faith as well! Here at The Brook, we believe this is best done through Community Groups. These groups provide opportunities to dive deeper into God's Word, build relationships, enjoy accountability with others, & reach out to serve our community.



SERVE

God has given each person unique gifts and talents, and we believe that those should be used for His glory through serving the church, our community, and the people that God places in our lives! We desire to see all of our people serving and would love to help you figure out what that looks like for you.

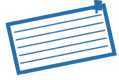


TOGETHER

When we worship, grow, and serve together, we experience true godly fellowship. God designed us to be in fellowship with one another, and we would love for you to experience that with us here at The Brook!

NEXT STEPS

CONNECTING



Connect Cards

For more information or to share a prayer request with us, please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card located in the seat back pocket. You can drop it in one of the offering boxes on your way out.



Connection Hub

As you enter our lobby, just to the right of our coffee bar, you will always find members of our Connection Team ready to answer your questions, help you register for events, point you to one of our discipleship opportunities, or help you find the right opportunity to serve.



Connection Classes

Every quarter we host our Connection Classes during the 10:45 hour. Through these 2 consecutive weeks we walk you through our Mission, Values, and Strategy, opportunities to grow and serve, and the pathway to membership at The Brook.



Connection Groups

During the 6 weeks immediately following our Connection Class, the Connection Group is an opportunity to build new friendships, be introduced to some of our Elders, and experience the regular rhythms of our Community Groups.

GIVING

Part of our response to God in worship is giving back to Him. Here at The Brook, you can do this in several ways. However the Lord leads you to give, we encourage you to give regularly, cheerfully, and sacrificially!



Offering Boxes

Place cash or a check (made out to The Brook) in an offering envelope and place it in one of the two offering boxes located at the back of the Worship Center or in the one located in the Lobby. Be sure to include your name and address on the front of the envelope.



Website

Give online from our website (thebrookchurch.com), where you can make one-time contributions or set up recurring gifts.



Text to Give

Text the amount that you would like to give to (256) 333-6842. For example, if you want to give \$100, you can type 100 or \$100. Either will work. The first time you do this, you will have to complete a simple registration to link your phone to your giving account. After the initial setup, it takes less than five seconds to give to The Brook.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

The Word of God

As we gather this morning, we hope you notice that the Word of God is the root and foundation for all we do. We begin our time with a Call to Worship and we end with a Benediction or Doxology from the scriptures. Believing that God's Word is without error and is "useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and for training in righteousness..." we preach expository sermons from the scriptures each week. Paul instructs us, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 3:16)

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

In the New Testament, the church is given two required ordinances to follow: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. While they are both very powerful symbols of the Lord's death and resurrection, they are also public professions and identifications that we belong to the Church, the Body of Christ.

Baptism is the first step of obedience for a follower of Jesus. It is the believer's public profession of faith in Christ. In Romans 6, Paul says, "We are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life." One of our pastors or elders would love to talk to you about taking this step of faith and obedience.

For believers, the Lord's Supper is the remembrance of what that baptism represents: Jesus's body was broken & his blood was spilled to wash away our sin. Through the preaching of the Word and the worship of the saints, we HEAR the gospel. As we take the Lord's Supper together this morning, we SEE the gospel.

Here is a suggested guided prayer for taking the Lord's Supper:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to atone for our sin with His body and blood on the Cross, rising from the grave and defeating sin and death. I will remember and proclaim His death and resurrection until He comes again. In Jesus name, Amen.

Nursing Mothers' Room

We have a private area reserved for nursing mothers in our Worship Center. This room is located through the back doors of the auditorium and down the hallway to the right. We livestream to this room, so you won't miss anything if you need to step out of the service.

Lobby Viewing Area

We understand that not all parents are ready to bring their child into a classroom, and so we welcome your entire family into our worship service. However, in consideration of others, we do ask you to help us minimize distractions. If your child becomes restless and you need to leave the Worship Center, you can continue to watch the service from our Lobby where our worship service is being live-streamed.