

DEATH *to* THE KING

Big Idea

We want a Saviour. We don't want a King. We want safety nets, not guardrails. You don't follow Jesus until you surrender to him as King.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 12:1–3, 5–6, 9–12, 14–15

John 11:45–48, 50, 53, 57; 12:17–19

Luke 9:23–24

Discussion Questions

- What's the most useful safety net you've ever had in your life — something that caught you when things fell apart?
- Have you ever been frustrated by a rule or guardrail in the moment, only to realise later it actually protected you? What happened?
- Chris opened with the image of a safety net versus a guardrail as two different ways people think about Jesus. Before you heard this message, which one would have better described your view of him — and why?
- Why do you think most people find it easier to embrace the idea of Jesus as Saviour than Jesus as King?
- What stood out to you most from the message this week?

Read Matthew 12:9–14

- What stands out to you about how the Pharisees respond to Jesus healing the man with the shrivelled hand?

- Jesus asks, "How much more valuable is a person than a sheep?" What does that question tell us about what God actually prioritises?
- The Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus for doing good. What does their reaction reveal about the kind of threat they felt Jesus posed?

Read John 11:45–48 and John 12:17–19

- The chief priests admitted their fear was losing their place, power, and position. When Jesus challenges something you're holding onto — your plans, your comfort, your control — what's your honest first reaction?
- Chris pointed out that some of the biggest enemies of Jesus eventually became his followers. What does that tell you about what's possible for anyone?

Read Luke 9:23–24

- In your own words, what do you think Jesus means when he says, "Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it"?
- Chris said there are things we grip the tightest — career, money, future, relationships — and that surrendering those to the King is where real life is found. What's one area of your life that's hardest to hand over? What makes it so hard?
- Chris said, "The difference is not how forgiven they are. The difference is how surrendered they are." When you think about people whose faith genuinely inspires you, does that ring true?
- Is it possible you've been treating Jesus more like a safety net — there for emergencies, out of the way the rest of the time? What would it look like to treat him as King in one specific area of your life this week?
- For someone new to faith or just exploring it for the first time — what's one thing from this message that surprised you, challenged you, or made you curious to know more?

 **Challenge Question (For Takeaway):**

This week, try **The Guardrail Practice** — three steps to move from safety net to King:

Identify • Name one area of your life where you've been treating Jesus as a safety net rather than a King (a relationship, your finances, a habit, a decision you've been avoiding).

Surrender • Pray specifically: "Jesus, I want you to be King in [that area]. I trust your guardrail even when I can't see the drop."

Act • Take one concrete step this week that reflects Jesus having real authority in that area — not just a prayer, but a decision.