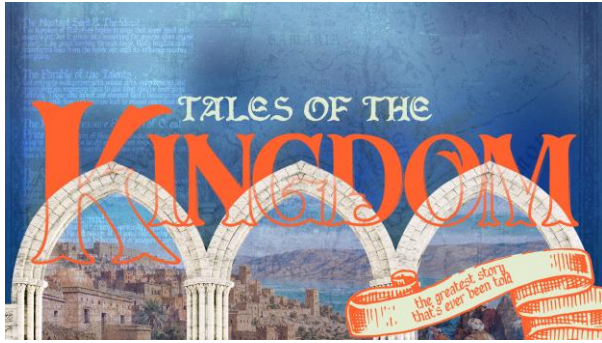


**STUDY GUIDE:**

Message Series:

Message Title:

Teaching Pastor:

August 2, 2026

Tales of the Kingdom

Ears to Hear, Eyes to See

Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-Up / Icebreaker (10 min.)

If you had to solve a difficult puzzle or escape room, would you rather work alone or with a group? Why?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word and by Your Spirit. Open our hearts today so we can truly hear what You want to teach us. Remove distractions, soften any hardened places in our lives, and give us the courage to trust You even when You don't reveal the whole picture. Help us become people who not only hear Your voice but faithfully follow it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

- Think about a teacher, coach, or mentor who helped you grow. Did they always give you the answers, or did they ask questions that helped you discover the answer yourself? Why do you think they chose that approach?

Read Matthew 13:1–9.

- What do you notice about the farmer? What surprises you about where he scatters the seed?

Read Matthew 13:18–23.

- Jesus explains that the different soils represent different responses to God's Word. Which soil do you think is the easiest to drift toward in today's world? Why?

"It's the journey toward the truth of God—not the final destination—that reveals the truth of God."
— Elijah Schiarelli

- Pastor Elijah suggested that God often reveals His will one step at a time. Why do you think God chooses to work that way instead of giving us the entire plan?

"The parables weren't meant to simply give answers—they were invitations to pursue the truth."
— Elijah Schiarelli

- How does seeking God with questions strengthen our faith more than simply wanting immediate answers?

Reflect and Commit (30 min.)**Read Isaiah 6:9–10.**

- Jesus quoted these verses when talking about people who have ears but do not hear and eyes but do not see. What attitudes or distractions can keep us from recognizing God's voice today?

Read Proverbs 3:5–6.

"You have the power to choose what kind of soil you will be." — Elijah Schiarelli

- Healthy soil must be cultivated. What practical habits help keep your heart open and receptive to what God wants to do in your life?

Read James 1:22–25.

- Pastor Elijah reminded us that God's invitations require a response. Is there an area where God has been asking you to trust Him or take a next step? What might obedience look like this week?

"Remember: you have the power to choose who you're going to be. So make that choice, right now. Jesus is inviting you to the conversation and giving you just enough to make you consider what He might be up to through you. If you'll have the courage - the trust - to take the step, then you'll experience the Kingdom of God expanding all around you as others are invited to the conversation too. Your life has more meaning to it that you can imagine, but in order to seize it, you have to have ears to hear, and eyes to see." — Elijah Schiarelli

Gather Prayer Requests: (5–10 min.)**Pray:**

Father, thank You for reminding us that You are always inviting us into a deeper relationship with You. Help us become people with ears to hear and eyes to see what You're doing around us. Give us hearts like good soil—ready to receive Your Word, willing to trust You even without having all the answers, and eager to bear fruit for Your Kingdom. As we leave today, give us courage to take the next step You place before us, trusting that You are faithful in every season. In Jesus' name, Amen.