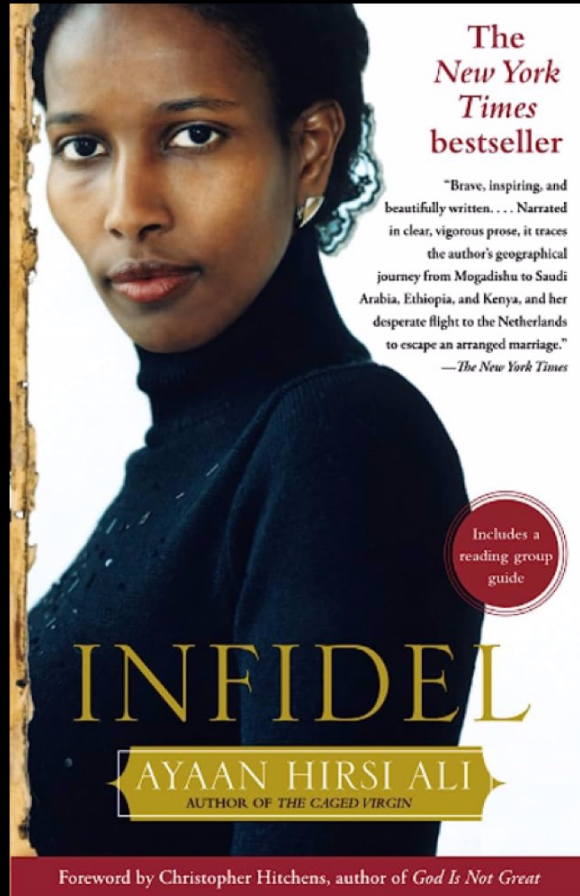






Ayaan Hirsi Ali





The
New York
Times
bestseller

"Brave, inspiring, and beautifully written. . . . Narrated in clear, vigorous prose, it traces the author's geographical journey from Mogadishu to Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and her desperate flight to the Netherlands to escape an arranged marriage."
—*The New York Times*

Includes a
reading group
guide

INFIDEL

AYAAN HIRSI ALI
AUTHOR OF THE CAGED VIRGIN

Foreword by Christopher Hitchens, author of *God Is Not Great*

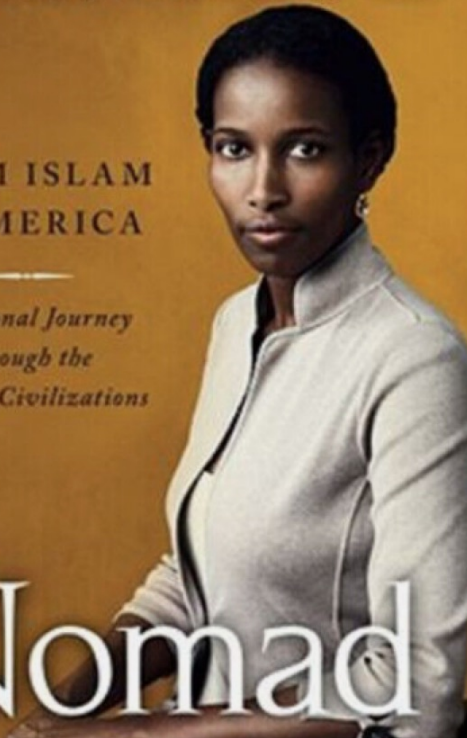
AUTHOR OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLER *INFIDEL*

Ayaan Hirsi Ali

FROM ISLAM
to AMERICA

*A Personal Journey
Through the
Clash of Civilizations*

Nomad



“Western civilisation is under threat from three different but related forces: the resurgence of great-power authoritarianism and expansionism in the forms of the Chinese Communist Party and Vladimir Putin’s Russia;

“the rise of global Islamism, which threatens to mobilise a vast population against the west; and the viral spread of woke ideology, which is eating into the moral fibre of the next generation.

“We endeavor to fend off these threats with modern, secular tools: military, economic, diplomatic, and technological efforts to defeat, bribe, persuade, appeal, or surveil. And yet, with every round of conflict, we find ourselves losing ground....

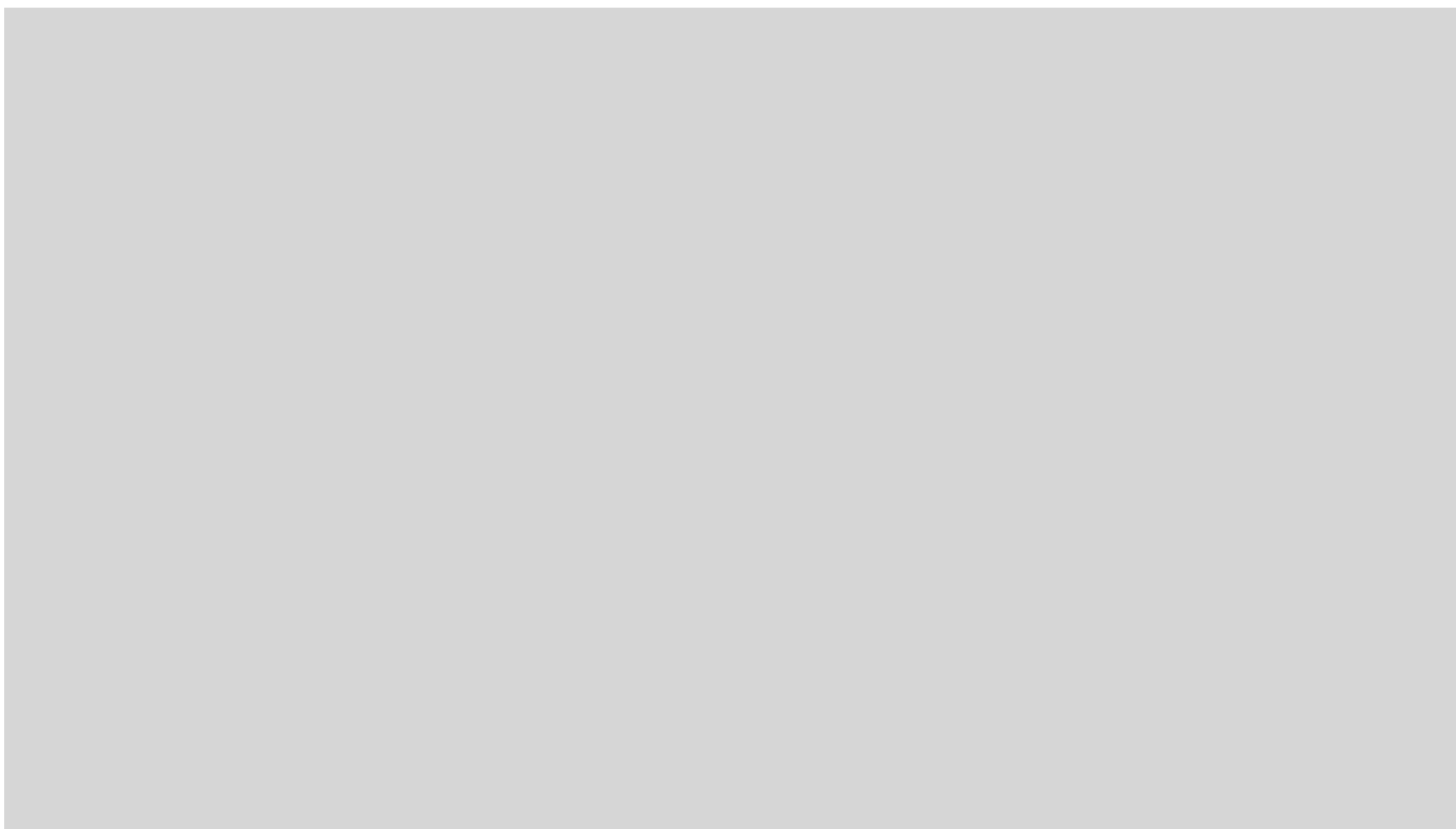
“But we can’t fight off these formidable forces unless we can answer the question: what is it that unites us?”

“The response that ‘God is dead’ seems insufficient. So, too, does the attempt to find solace in ‘the rules-based liberal international order.’ The only credible answer, I believe, lies in our desire to uphold the legacy of the Judeo-Christian tradition.

“That legacy consists of an elaborate set of ideas and institutions designed to safeguard human life, freedom, and dignity – from the nation state and the rule of law, to the institutions of science, health, and learning.

“As Tom Holland has shown in his marvelous book, *Dominion*, all sorts of apparently secular freedoms – of the market, of conscience, and of the press – find their roots in Christianity.”

Ayaan Hirsi Ali



“Of course, I still have a great deal to learn about Christianity. I discover a little more at church each Sunday.

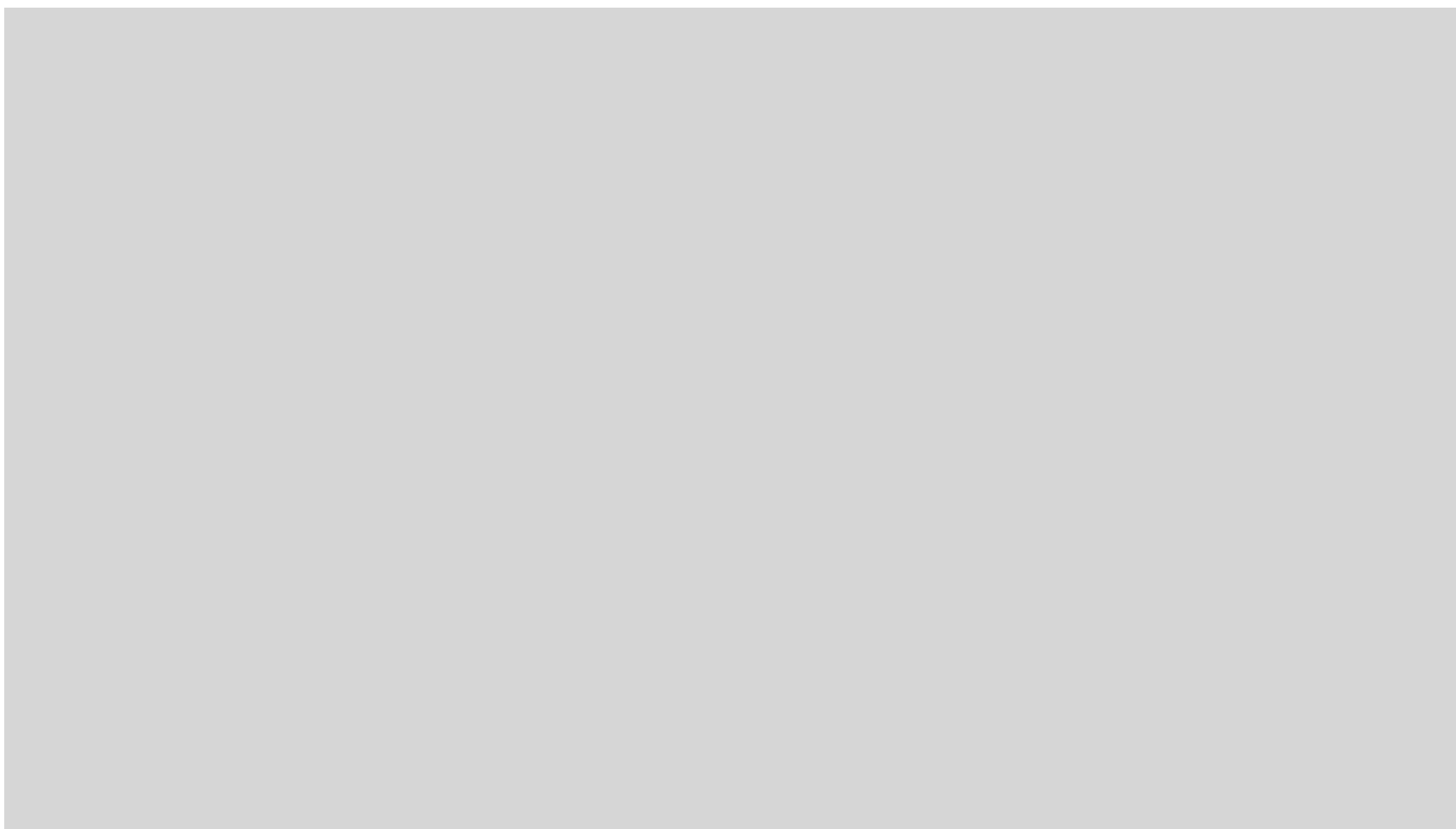
“But I have recognised, in my own long journey through a wilderness of fear and self-doubt, that there is a better way to manage the challenges of existence than either Islam or unbelief had to offer.”

Ayaan Hirsi Ali

- In Islam, she found strong convictions but no freedom.

- In Islam, she found strong convictions but no freedom.
- In atheism, she found no convictions with lots of freedom.

- In Islam, she found strong convictions but no freedom.
- In atheism, she found no convictions with lots of freedom.
- In Christianity, she is finding strong convictions with freedom.

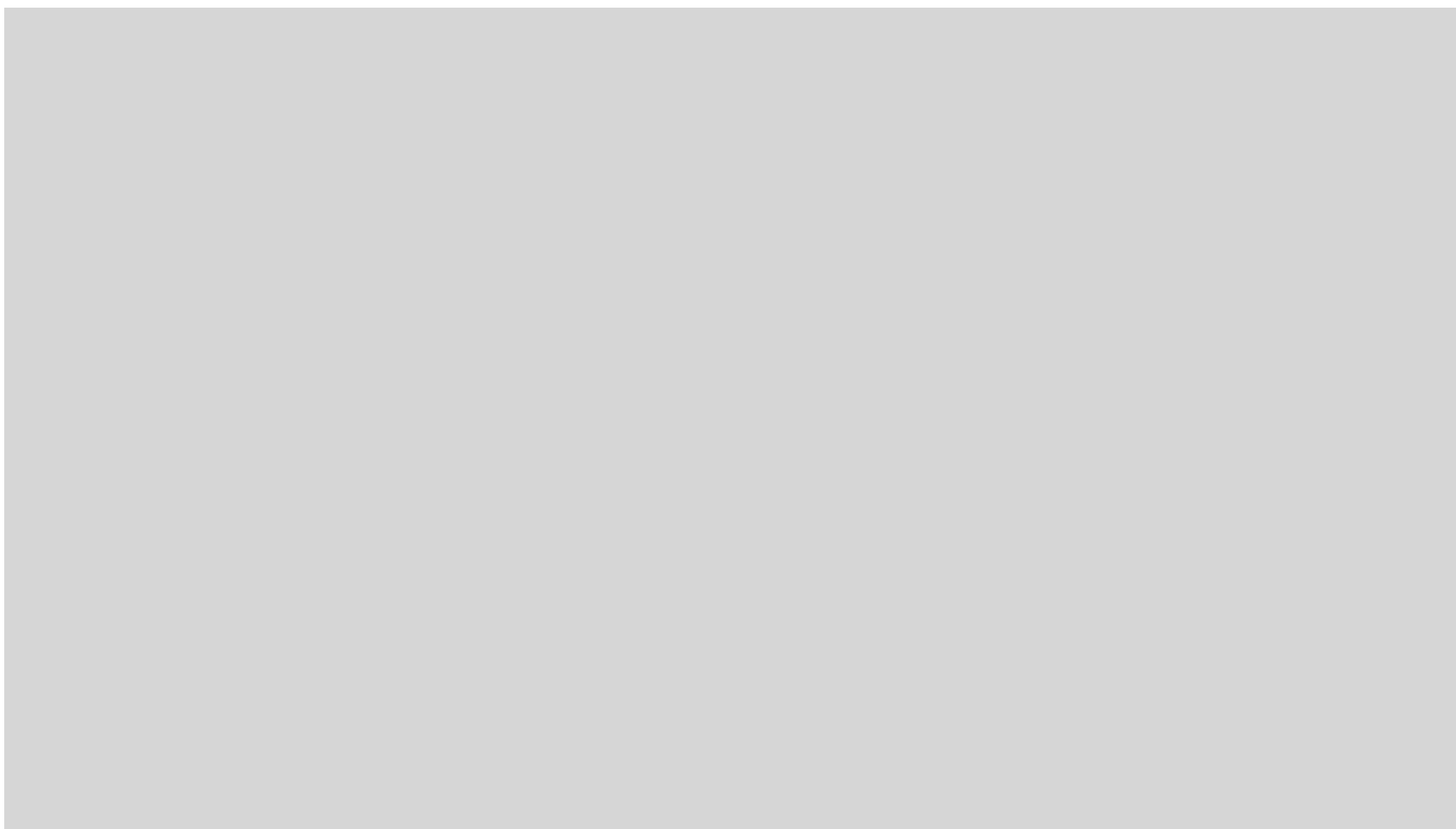


“Matthew was the most widely read gospel in the early church.”

“Matthew was the most widely read gospel in the early church.”

The church fathers “quoted it more than from any of the others.”

D. Edmond Hiebert



What is the structure of Matthew?

What is the structure of Matthew?

1. The Prologue: the **advent** of the King (1-2)

“when Jesus finished these sayings”

2. The **gospel** of the kingdom (3-7)

2. The **gospel** of the kingdom (3-7)

Discourse #1 - The **Sermon on the Mount** (5-7)

2. The **gospel** of the kingdom (3-7)

Discourse #1 - The **Sermon on the Mount** (5-7)

“And when Jesus finished these sayings....”

Matthew 7:28a

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)

9 Miracles with 3 Calls (8-9)

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)


9 Miracles with 3 Calls (8-9)

3 Miracles

(cost of following)

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)

9 Miracles with 3 Calls (8-9)

3 Miracles  3 Miracles
(cost of following) (call of Matthew)

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)

9 Miracles with 3 Calls (8-9)

3 Miracles ➡ 3 Miracles ➡ 3 Miracles
(cost of following) (call of Matthew) (laborers are few)

3. The **coming** of the kingdom (8-10)

Discourse #2 - The Sermon on the **Mission/**
Opposition (10)

3. The coming of the kingdom (8-10)

Discourse #2 - The Sermon on the Mission/
Opposition (10)

“When Jesus had finished instructing....” (11:1a)

4. The **resistance** to the kingdom (11-13)

4. The **resistance** to the kingdom (11-13)

Discourse #3 - The Sermon in **Parables**

4. The resistance to the kingdom (11-13)

Discourse #3 - The Sermon in Parables

“And when Jesus had finished these
parables....”

Matthew 13:53a

5. The **expectations** of the kingdom (14-18)

5. The **expectations** of the kingdom (14-18)

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16

5. The **expectations** of the kingdom (14-18)

Discourse #4 - The Sermon on **Relationships**

5. The expectations of the kingdom (14-18)

Discourse #4 - The Sermon on Relationships

“Now when Jesus had finished these sayings....”

Matthew 19:1a

6. The conflict of the kingdom (19-25)

6. The conflict of the kingdom (19-25)

“Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”

Matthew 21:31b

6. The conflict of the kingdom (19-25)

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.”

Matthew 21:43

6. The **conflict** of the kingdom (19-25)

Discourse #5 - The Sermon on the
Mount of Olives

6. The conflict of the kingdom (19-25)

Discourse #5 - The Sermon on the

Mount of Olives

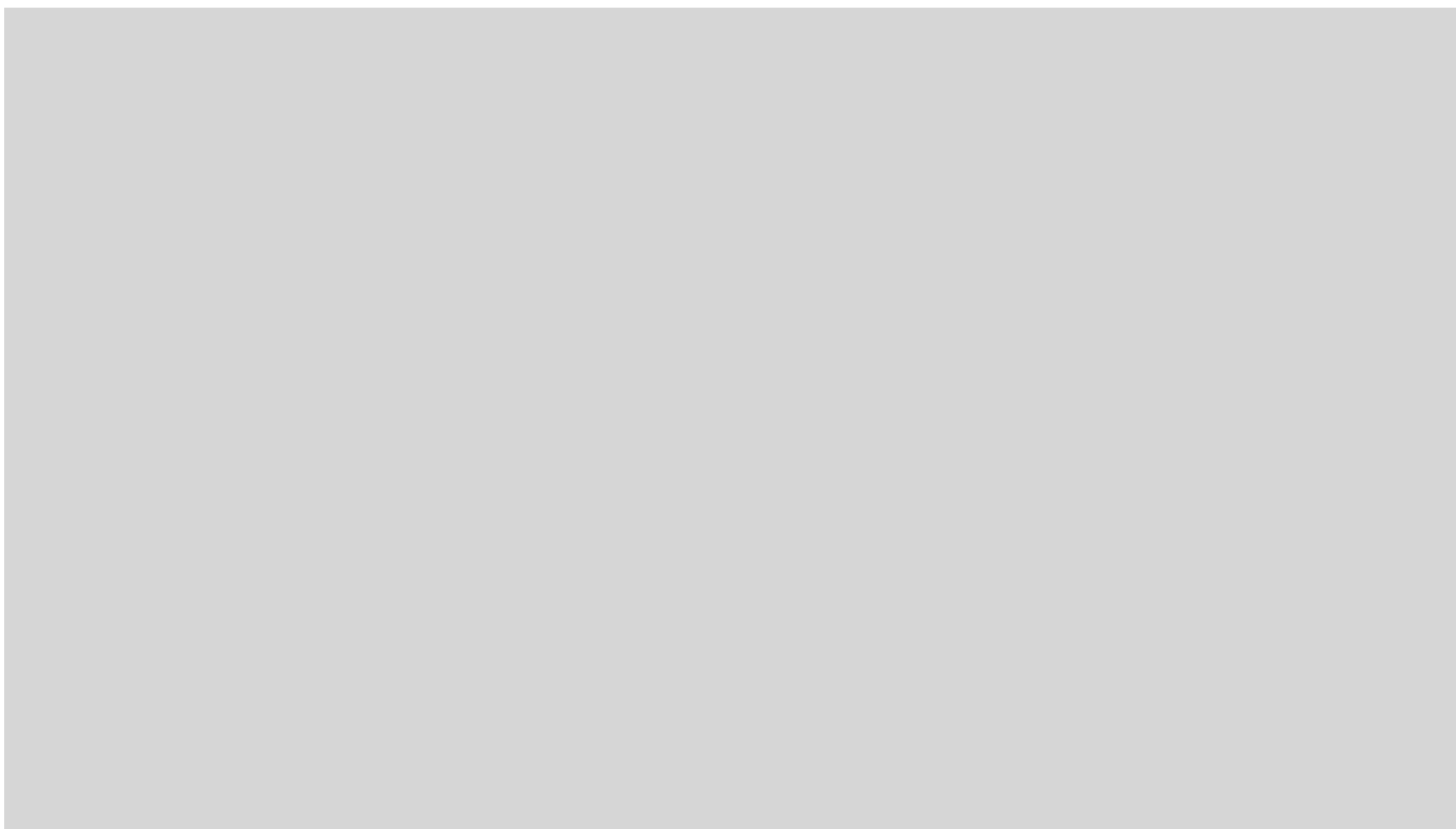
“When Jesus had finished all these sayings....”

Matthew 26:1a

7. The **climax** of the kingdom (26-28)

7. The **climax** of the kingdom (26-28)

Discourse #6 (?) - The **Great Commission**



What is Matthew all about?

What is Matthew all about? **KING**

King and **kingdom**

King and kingdom

Christ (Christos - 17x) = Messiah,
Anointed One

King and kingdom

Christ (Christos - 17x) = Messiah,
Anointed One

Kingdom (basileia - 56x) = sovereignty,
royal power

King and kingdom

Christ (Christos - 17x) = Messiah,
 Anointed One

Kingdom (basileia - 56x) = sovereignty,
 royal power

Kingdom of heaven (32x)

“He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.’

“It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

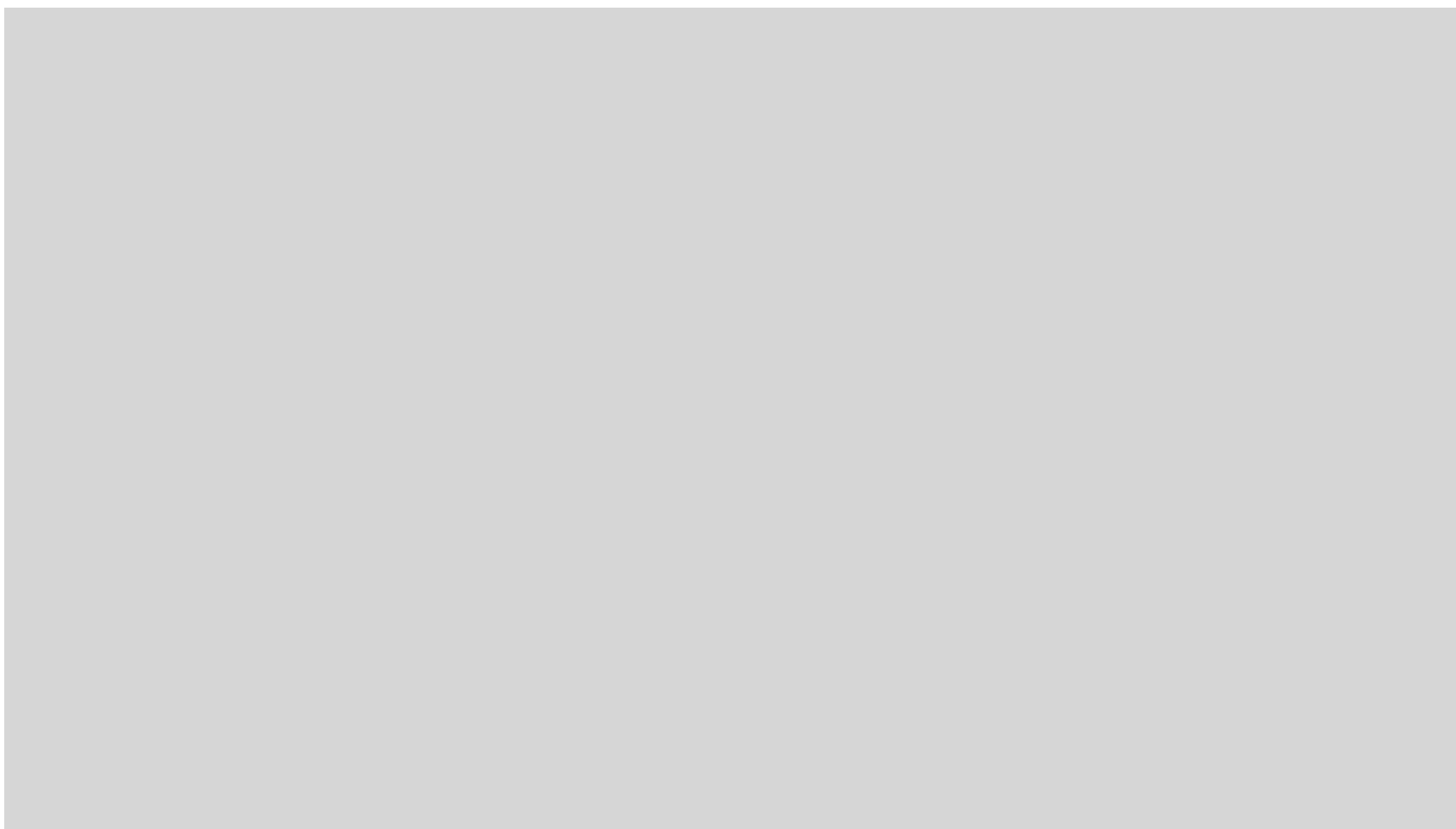
Matthew 13:31-32

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Matthew 13:44

“As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.’ And they were greatly distressed.”

Matthew 17:22-23



King and kingdom

Inside and **outside**

King and kingdom

Inside and **outside**

“From that time Jesus began to preach,
saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is
at hand.’”

Matthew 4:17

“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he rose and followed him.

“And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

“And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’

“But when he heard it, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’”

Matthew 9:9-13

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’

“And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:1-4

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

“And blessed is the one who is not offended
by me.”

Matthew 11:4-6

“And Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the **kingdom of heaven**. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the **kingdom of God.**’

“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘**Who then can be saved?**’ But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

Matthew 19:23-26

“So the kingdom of God ... is God’s redemptive reign, in the person of his Son, Jesus Messiah, which has broken into the present evil age and is now visible in the church.”

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert

King and kingdom

Inside and outside

New and old

“It is written” (or “spoken”)

“It is written” (or “spoken”)

- his birth (1:22-23)

“It is written” (or “spoken”)

- his birth (1:22-23)
- his birthplace (2:6)

“It is written” (or “spoken”)

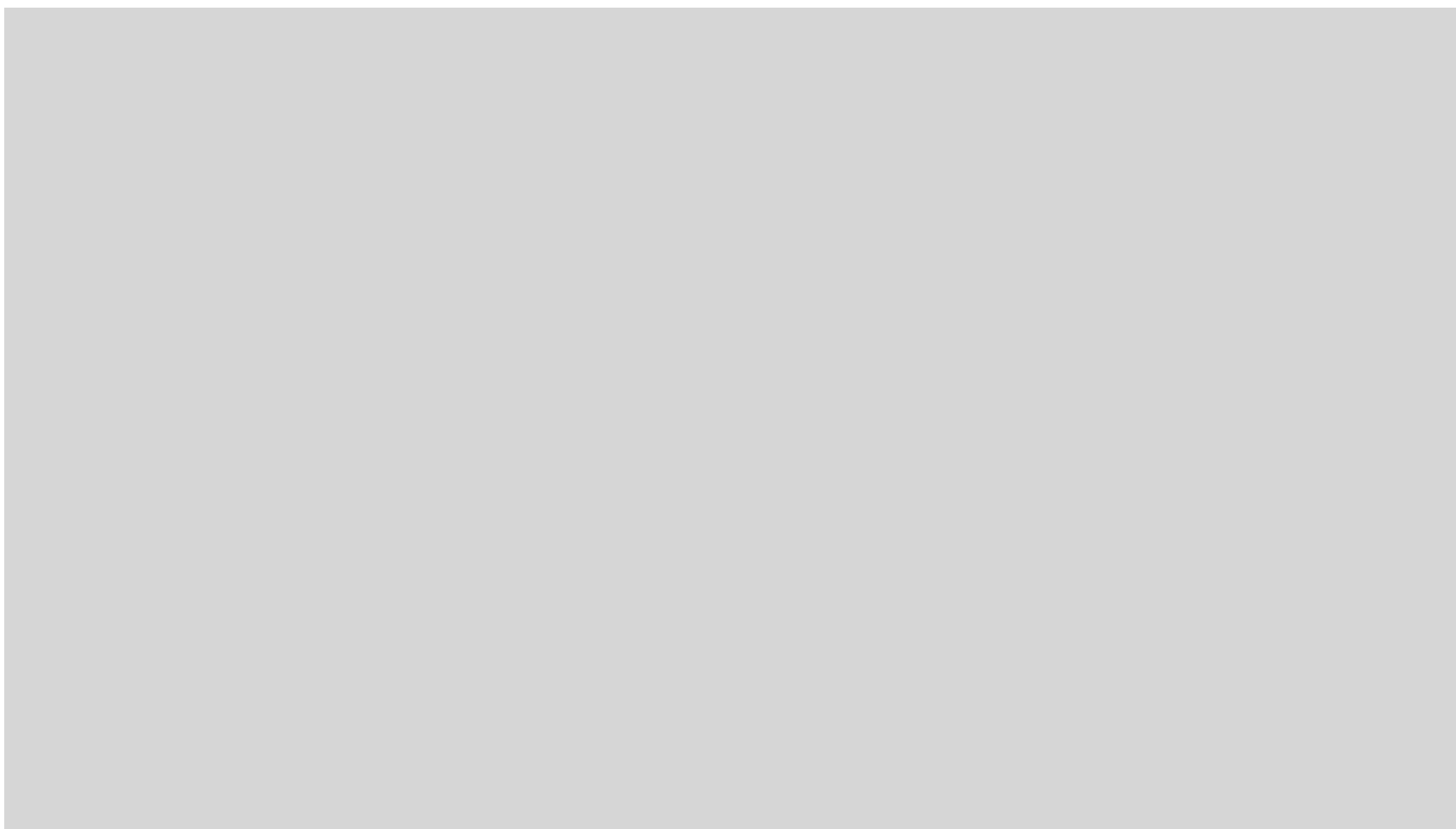
- his birth (1:22-23)
- his birthplace (2:6)
- his trip to Egypt (2:15)

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- Herod’s massacre (2:17-18)

“It is written” (or “spoken”)

- his birth (1:22-23)
- his birthplace (2:6)
- his trip to Egypt (2:15)
- Herod’s massacre (2:17-18)
- his life in Nazareth (2:23)



“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Matthew 5:17

“You have heard ... but I say to you” (6x)

Jesus predicted ...

Jesus predicted ...

- the temple would be destroyed.

Jesus predicted ...

- the temple would be destroyed.
- the priesthood would end.

Jesus predicted ...

- the temple would be destroyed.
- the priesthood would end.
- Jerusalem would be decimated.

“Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness.” Matt. 8:10b-12a

King and kingdom

Inside and outside

New and old

Gathering and **going**

Discipleship is the process wherein people are miraculously brought into Christ's kingdom through repentance and faith, transformed together in the presence of the King, and sent out to live and give the good news of the kingdom to the world!

centripetal - drawing in

centripetal - drawing in
centrifugal - sending out

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus addresses -

- anger

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths
- relationships

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths
- relationships
- fasting

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths
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- fasting
- money/treasure

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths
- relationships
- fasting
- money/treasure
- anxiety

Jesus addresses -

- anger
- lust
- marriage/divorce
- speech/oaths
- relationships
- fasting
- money/treasure
- anxiety
- etc.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Matthew 10:37-38

“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18b

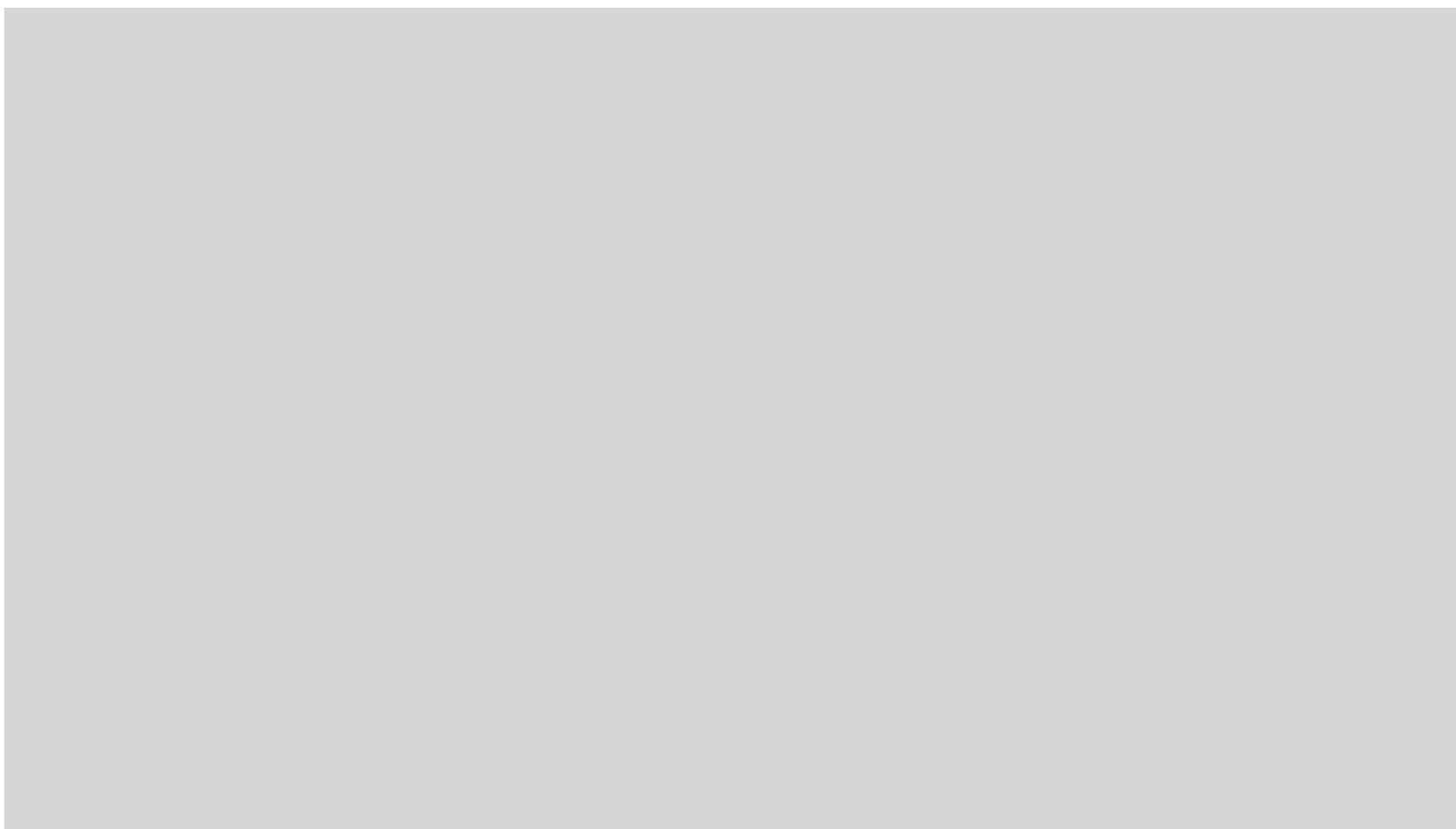
“But it is in such a community that disciples are made.

“To be a community of light from which the light of Christ will emanate, we need to be intentional in our relationships – to love the unlovely, forgive the unforgivable, embrace the repulsive, include the awkward, accept the weird.

“It is in contexts such as these that sinners are transformed into disciples who obey everything King Jesus has commanded.”

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

We become a “community of light from which the light of Christ will emanate....”

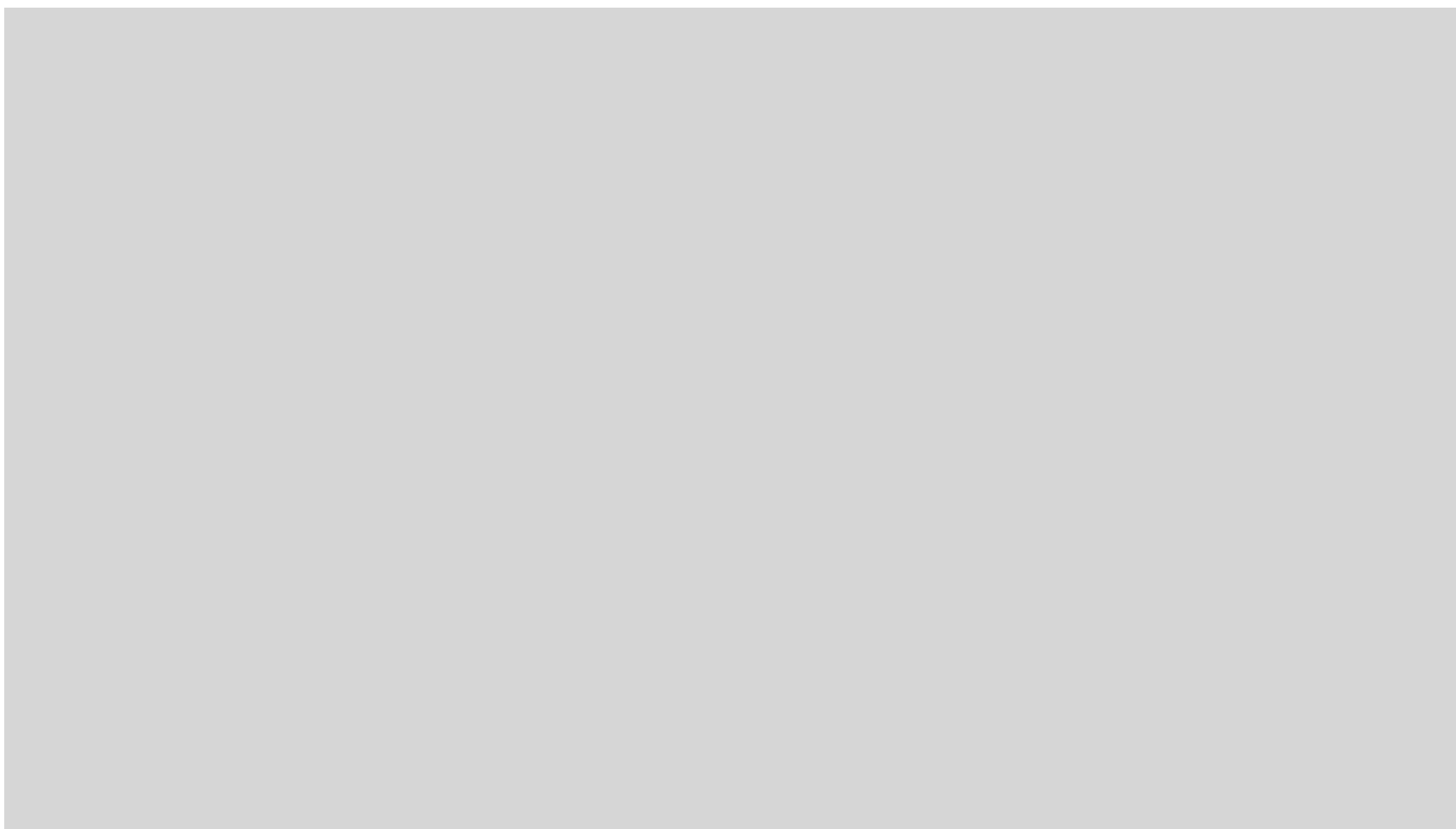


“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

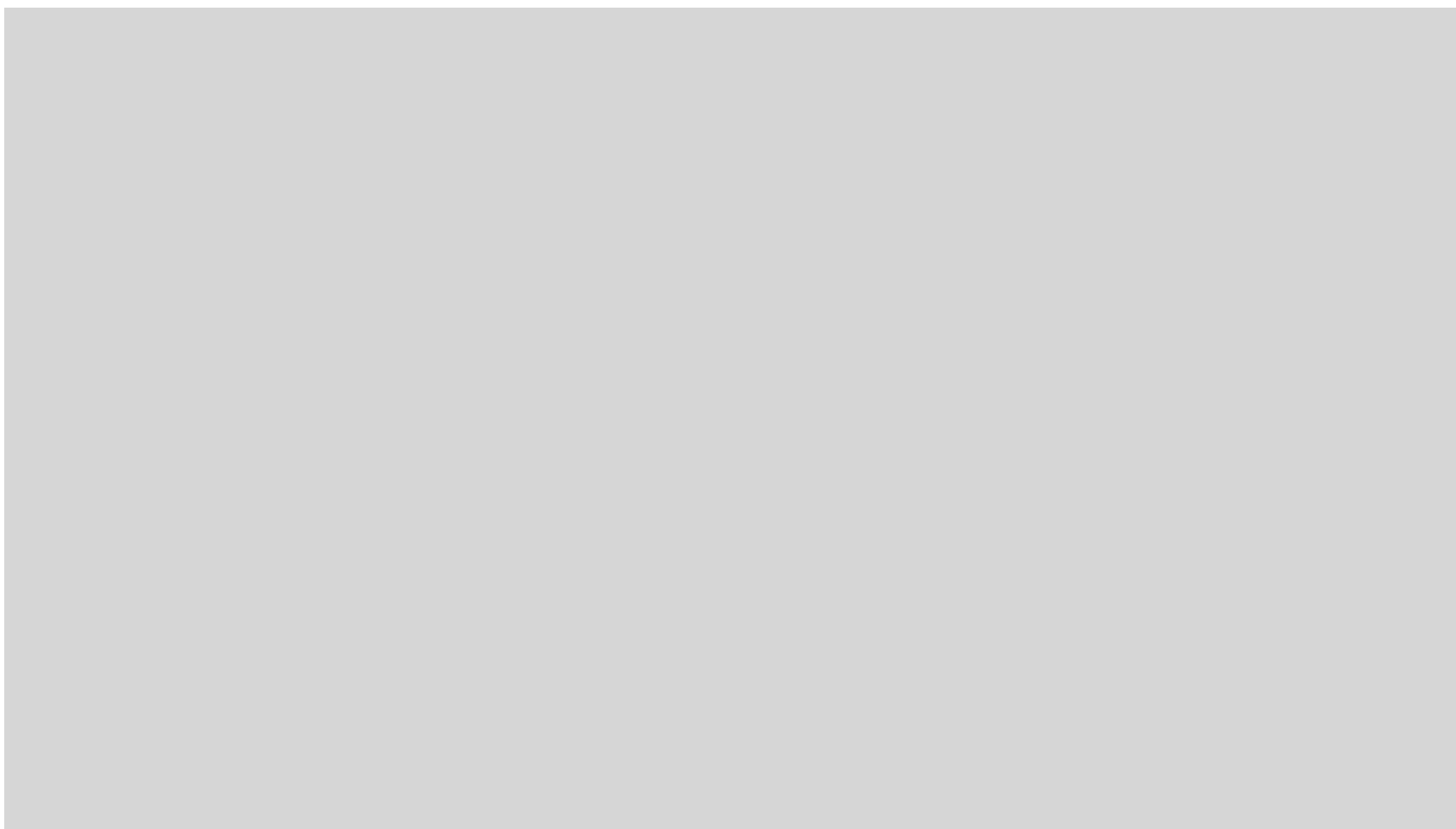


“I had everything I had always wanted; the last thing I needed was a crutch. At twenty-seven, I had fulfilled my childhood dream of earning a Ph.D. from Cambridge University as well as a fellowship at Oxford University.

“I had published an award-winning first book. I was having a great time with my friends at Oxford. Life was great.

“But here’s the strange thing: no matter how much I achieved, it was never enough. Every hurdle of achievement just revealed the next rung of the ladder to be climbed.”

Sarah Irving-Stonebraker



“The more I learned about God’s love for us in Jesus, the more I found myself overwhelmed. I realized that God had always known me, always loved me, and that he wanted me to stop running after everything else in life except him.

“I had lived a life rejecting God, arrogantly ridiculing and poking fun at the very idea of God. And yet, God showed me grace.

“But he gave me this grace at the horrific cost of taking the punishment that my sin deserved onto himself, in Jesus. While there is so much more to this story, I decided that the Bible’s explanations of who God is, who we are, and what life is about were true.

“I wanted to follow the God who made me, loves me, and died for me. So one night I knelt in my closet in my apartment. In prayer, I admitted I’d lived a life of turning away from God, and I asked Jesus to be my Savior.

“This was not because God would enable me to avoid suffering or disappointment or so I would achieve all my dreams, but rather because God himself is life. And life with him is life with abundance: ‘I came that they may have life and have it abundantly’ (John 10:10).”

Sarah Irving-Stonebraker

“Jesus’ words gave me a hope that I never had as an atheist. In the dark moments, before I knew God, all I had was despair.

“But now that I was a Christian, I knew the God who loved me. I knew that my suffering was not ultimate, because at the end of time God will remake the heavens and the earth.

“Jesus himself ‘will wipe every tear from their eyes’ Even in the midst of suffering, Jesus is the source of abundant and eternal life.”

Sarah Irving-Stonebraker

