



- ❖ We do not find life and meaning in things – we find life and meaning in serving God and others.

## 2. The second step is to see “The Kingdom of God as our Priority”.

**So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:31-33**

- The Kingdom of God is the place where God’s invisible rule is made visible, and the place where evidence of God’s presence is demonstrated through a community of people living in submission to God’s authority.
- The Kingdom of God Is found in “Seeking God’s righteousness!

Righteousness means “right acting in our relationships, or acting ethically in our relationships, both with God and with others.

Acting ethically or rightly means actively working to promote and ensure God’s redemptive purpose for all of God’s children.

**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:14-17**

## 3. The third step is to “Make your life different”.

Three practices to reorient your life in the New Year so that you can experience the joy of living and giving like Jesus.

### a) Proactive parenting.

**Be righteous so that our children can follow our example.  
Deuteronomy 4:9**

Faith is both taught and modeled.

### b) Service demonstrated through good deeds.

Jesus gives his followers a very clear instruction for the promotion of his kingdom mission:

**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35**

People do not believe the gospel simply because of our words; seeing is believing. Our walk must precede our talk.

**“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5:16**

### c) Verbal witnessing.

We have to go beyond just doing good deeds.  
We have to name the name and tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Witnessing is all about showing GOOD DEEDS and then TELLING THE REASON WHY you are doing what you are doing.

**How do we allow the lessons of Advent and Christmas shape 2018 for Poplar Grove UMC?**

By:

- Right sizing our life for mission.
- Seeing the Kingdom of God as our priority. And
- Making our life different.