

**Series:** The Open Door

**Series Text:** Revelation 3:7-8

“...These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open. ... See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”

**Series Drawing Upon:** John Ortberg's *All the Places to Go: How Will You Know?*

<https://www.rightnow.org/Content/Series/1297>

**Sermon: #2:** But Wait, There's More!

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:1-8 (Story of “The Fall”)

**Text:** Matthew 7:8 “For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

**Theme:** We wrestle with a hunger for more, a hunger that God made in us to be satisfied in Him. Yet we try to satiate it in so many wrong ways. It is only when we see ourselves in God's love that we can look at our world correctly, and look out in love. Only this satisfies our inner longings.

**Blurb:** What color are the lenses of your glasses? I don't mean your prescription glasses, or your shades, or fashion eyewear. I'm talking about the lenses you use to look at the world. How does the way you look at the world control what you see? The message this Sunday takes up the offer that God gives to each of us to look at the world differently, to see different possibilities, to see open doors that we can't otherwise see. Come Sunday for a vision exam!

**Sermon Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D953Lqc4MPI>

**Gathering Song:** Jesus Friend of Sinners

**Welcome:** David

**Worship Song Set:** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing  
The Time Has Come  
Hungry (Falling on My Knees)

**Worship Prayer**  
Kids invited to Kids' Church

**Mission Moment** - Action Pack/Missionaries -Andrew Bu

**Prayer** - Andrew Bu

**Offering Video (Sermon Intro):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D953Lqc4MPI>

**PP#1:** The Open Door

But Wait, There's More!

““For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”” - Matthew 7:8

The Open Door. But Wait, There's More! Matthew 7:8, ““For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.””

**PP#2:** *Pix of John Ortberg's book, All the Places to Go: How Will You Know?*

Our lives are filled with open doors. On Easter, Jesus became the Key that unlocks all that traps us, our graves, open up our lives. This risen Jesus opens doors in front of us.

This message series draws upon the book by John Ortberg, *All the Places to Go: How Will You Know? God Has Placed before You an Open Door. What Will You Do?*

**PP#3:** *Images of open doors.*

An open door may be a cliché, but it's also a spiritual truth. We're defining an open door as *an opportunity provided by God to go through—to act—with God, for God*. And God has placed open doors, sometimes many doors, in front of each of us. Our question is how will we take advantage of that gift?

**PP#4:** FOMO: Fear Of Missing Out!

With so many doors, how will we choose the right door? There are so many possibilities. Last week we talked about the paralysis that can come from the fear of choosing: not knowing which to choose, not knowing what we ought to do. And so we can get stuck on this side of the door.

A major component of this paralysis, comes from comparing ourselves with others around us. We constantly evaluate what everyone else does, has, is enjoying, is experiencing, and we tell ourselves that we should also have as good as the best thing we see others have. We are concerned that if we settle on a door, and choose to go through it, we may be missing out on something better that might be coming along. Sherry Turkle, a professor at MIT, calls it FOMO: fear of missing out.

**PP#5:** But Wait, There's More!

1. FOMO leads to open door paralysis

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” - Matthew 7:8

Ortberg says, “We’re afraid that other people are doing more interesting things than we’re doing, or making more friends than we’re making, or discovering better ways of getting in shape or saving money or managing their emotions than we are... We’re afraid there’s something wonderful going on somewhere and we’re missing out. Have we taken the wrong job or connected with the wrong people or made the wrong commitment or chosen the wrong event? We’re afraid we’re missing out on our children growing up. Afraid we’re missing out on what could be great careers. Afraid we’re missing out on financial opportunities other people are grabbing, or great vacations other people are taking, or wonderful abilities other people are acquiring.” Whew!

FOMO is fed by comparing ourselves to others. And when we do, the possibilities are endless! You know, if you’re under 30, there’s a pretty good chance that you will have a job some day that hasn’t even been invented yet! We spend way too much time waiting for only the best, trying to copy someone else’s success, and we stand in front of our doors, too fearful to go through.

This is where God’s word soothes us, calms us, settles us. We have a good Father that has a plan of fullness for us. It comes from Him, not others! He knows what we need, deep down, and He is eager to provide it for us. Jesus promised, “For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:8) It is this God who

places open doors in front of us. It is by trust in this God, not by comparing ourselves to others, that gives us the confidence to walk through the door in front of us. It is the assurance that we can be truly satisfied.

**PP#6: But Wait, There's More!**

1. FOMO leads to open door paralysis
2. Only God can satisfy our desire for more  
 "Enjoy the Lord, and He will give what your heart asks." -Psalm 37:4

Our hunger for more, our restlessness, our deep longing for something more, has always been there. We were created that way. The story at the beginning of the Bible, that tells the creation story, explains that the deep desire for more, and better, and different, is a God-given desire. It's designed into us by God, so that we would constantly seek more of Him, desire to be with Him more, be closer and closer. But right from the beginning, the first people, sought that more from somewhere else. And in so doing, became miserable!

Turn with me to Genesis, chapter 3. God has just finished making everything, including people, and commanded them to enjoy everything created except one tree. It was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was the ability to decide what is good or not. God said they didn't need that worry. He would take care of them, and guide them. Leave that alone. Trust me, said God. Let me show you what is good and right. Well, we know what happened, don't we?

**PP#7: Genesis 3:1-8**

3:1 The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

2 The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees 3 but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

Chapter 3, verse 1: "The snake was the most intelligent [some versions say crafty] of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?" The serpent is trying to get the woman to second guess what God said was good and right.

Verse 2, "The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'" OK, very clear. It is good to eat from every other tree. Eating from this tree is bad. God lays it out. It's ultimately an issue of trust. Do they trust God, and believe He is giving them the best?

**PP#8: Genesis 3:1-8**

4 The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! 5 God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Verse 4. “The snake said to the woman, ‘You won’t die! 5 God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” Can you really trust God? I mean, perhaps He is keeping something good from you. Fear of missing out! Better go get it for yourself! Be sure you have the best. So, verse 6, “The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

They thought that maybe they could have something better, something more. Their inner hunger they satisfied not in God and His plan, but in something of their own choosing. And the results were disastrous!

**PP#9: Genesis 3:1-8**

7 Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

8 During that day’s cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden’s trees.

Verse 7, “Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.” They were overcome with embarrassment and guilt. Verse 8, “During that day’s cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden’s trees.” They were overcome with guilt and shame, and so they hid from God.

God intended them to be filled and fully satisfied being in relationship with Him. But the people, and all people ever since, tried to find fulfillment in other ways, and found themselves empty, alone, restless, hungry. We try so many doors to satisfy our need for more.

Yet before this story, before original sin, there was original worry! The story doesn’t start with the fall. It starts with a good God creating good. He made people with a purpose. Read chapter 2 sometime. People have a God-given identity, a purpose.

And God the Father is worried. He made people with a hunger for more of Him. Yet He also knows the consequences of unfulfillment, of trying to satisfy that hunger with other things instead. He’s worried about His beloved people. And so He makes it very clear: Do not eat of the forbidden fruit. It’s bad for you!

**PP#10: “Enjoy the Lord, and He will give what your heart asks.” -Psalm 37:4**

The original human hunger is still true. We were created for God. And this is still more true than the unfulfillment of all the other ways we try to satisfy ourselves. It is more true than our desire to be like others. God continues to offer us more, in open doors, of Him. We are made for more.

Jesus opens up the doors in front of us. On the cross, Jesus restores God’s plan to God’s children. He is the key that opens up our future! When we choose the Father, we are released into God’s plan. We join the purpose for which we were created. Psalm 37:4 “Enjoy the Lord, and He will give what your heart asks.” Not what you think you want, but what your heart is truly crying out for. When we delight in God, our core identity and purpose is restored! We get to shift back to the real plan...the open door that God offers. See? There’s more!

**PP#11:** “To journey for the sake of saving our own lives is little by little to cease to live in any sense that really matters, even to ourselves, because it is only by journeying for the world’s sake...that little by little we start to come alive.” -Frederick Buechner

How do we do this? It’s giving our doors to God! It means stopping trying to find the best door, with all the best benefits, and letting God open the door. It’s a position of the will, the heart, of saying “Yes!” to God, saying “Yes” before we know what’s on the other side. It means to stop trying to get everything best for ourselves, and letting God provide. It’s when God comes to us and says, “I want you to go through this door,” that we say, “Yes!” without knowing what’s on the other side.

“Frederick Buechner writes, “To journey for the sake of saving our own lives is little by little to cease to live in any sense that really matters, even to ourselves, because it is only by journeying for the world’s sake...that little by little we start to come alive.”

How do we walk through God’s open door? Here’s a clue, a flash from the past!

**Video:** Video clip of “Rose Colored Glasses” by John Conlee

OK, anyone remember that? Back to 1978 by whom?...John Conlee!

**PP#12:** *Image of a person wearing gigantic sun glasses.*

He’s wearing rose colored glasses, and that affects how he sees things.

Like these giant glasses. They make everything look different!

You know, a way that we can walk through God’s open door is very simple. It is simply choosing to look at life with love-colored glasses. It’s looking for opportunities to love. It’s that simple. We were all created in God’s image, and we are called to look at others trying to see God’s image in each person. We are meant to look at the world through the lense of love.

**PP#13:** But Wait, There’s More!

1. FOMO leads to open door paralysis
  2. Only God can satisfy our desire for more
  3. Look at the world through the lenses of love
- “Love one another!” -Jesus (John 13:34)

When we do, we begin to see so many new and unseen possibilities we couldn’t see before. Using rose-colored love glasses means remembering that we belong to a loving God who loves us, and that we are each made to love, and to see others through the lense of love.

How do we do this? How do we look at others through love? It means we start doing all the little things we now see. We see the cashier as a person worth giving a complement to. We see the slow driver in front of us as someone who’s reminding us to slow down and see the beauty around us. We see the coworker in the next cubicle as someone worth my time for an honest inquiry for how he or she is really doing. It’s seeing the red light as an opportunity to pray for the teenagers nearby on bikes. It’s spending Saturday morning walking along highway 97 and picking up trash. It’s taking food to someone on our meal train. It’s calling the city and thanking them for sending someone to fill in the potholes along your street. It’s posting on Facebook a thank you to a stranger you saw that

moved a few of the random shopping in the parking lot to the collection stalls. It's stopping to write a note of encouragement to our missionaries before you leave today!

Walking through God's open doors can be as simple as looking at life through love. We see people differently, see potential, who they are becoming, and how we can come along side of them.

**PP#14:** *Images of really cool people wearing really cool shades.*

Lenses of love help us see potential, opportunities, open doors, that we normally wouldn't see when we are so busy looking at which doors we feel might be best. Cool glasses can be lenses of fear, trying to fit in to other people's standards, comparing ourselves, looking at things selfishly, wanting more in wrong ways, FOMO, becoming critical, bitter, worried we are not good enough, that we're not good enough for God to use us.

We have to choose which lense we are putting on. Is my lens fitting of who I am, and who God is, and who God made me to be?

Lenses of love. Love is not something you feel, or think about, or plan. It is something you do. Love is doing stuff!

**PP#15:** *Image of Bob Goff*

Bob Goff used to be a corporate attorney. He was successful, had an amazing career and wealth. But he came to a place where he questioned how he was looking at everything. Others saw him and wanted his life, but he saw his life as empty. He had built a life only seeing himself. In despair, he decided to sit down and write everything he knew about Jesus. And he started doing that, and he started to see the world through love. He began to ask how he could live "with God" and "for God."

**PP#16:** *Image of Bob Goff and his book, Love Does.*

The result was his book, *Love Does*. He realized that love was doing stuff. So he started doing stuff, motivated by love, every day, all throughout the day. It became contagious! He realized his neighbors didn't know each other. Everyone was invisible, and it felt like no one cared. So he organized a neighborhood parade.

**PP#17:** *Images of Bob Goff's parade*

The requirement was that everyone had to be *in* the parade, before they could watch the parade: in order to be a watcher, you had to be a walker! Well, it took off, and it is now an annual tradition. This evolved into his neighborhood taking a stance together against human trafficking, and then starting a school in Uganda to give young people an alternative.

**PP#18:** *Images of Bob Goff's school in Uganda.*

Through this all, the crazy, contagious slogan simply was "love does." Love doesn't just feel, or think, or plan. Love does.

What glasses do you need to take off? What colors how you look at the world? How are you looking at the world through lenses you are not created to wear? Are you wearing a fear of missing

out? You have a God-given desire for more. Change your glasses! Take them off, and give them to Jesus! They will not satisfy. Then put on the glasses He gives you, lenses of love. These will make you whole.

**PP#19:** *A person smiling/happy and wearing rose-colored glasses.*

But wait! There's more! When you wear your love-colored glasses, what possibilities do you see? There are so many more than you could see before! What open doors can you walk through? What love stuff can you do?

Amen.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR APRIL 24, 2016

**Spring Series:** “The Open Door”

**Sermon:** “But Wait, There’s More!”

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:1-8, Matthew 7:8, Psalm 37:4, John 13:34

## Opening prayer

**Introductions:** Share about a time you chose to see someone as better than they appeared..

**Background:** Skim Genesis 2 What is going on in this chapter?

**Read:** Genesis 3:1-8

1. What is the creature identified in verse 1? How is it that it is able to speak?
2. What did it specifically ask the woman? What was the purpose, do you think, of this question?
3. How did the creature, in verse 4, contradict what Eve just explained in verse 3?
4. What was the alluring temptation the creature used in verse 4?
5. What does it saw were the reasons the woman and man ate the fruit?
6. What were the results of eating the fruit? Did they die?
7. How does verse 8 describe the results in terms of the relationship people had with God?
8. Read Matthew 7:8. Explain the meaning of this verse as if to a teenager.
9. Read Psalm 37:4. What is the connection between the two parts of this verse?
10. Read John 13:34. What is the connection between loving and witnessing for Christians?
11. Application: What will you take away from this passage? How will you live it out?