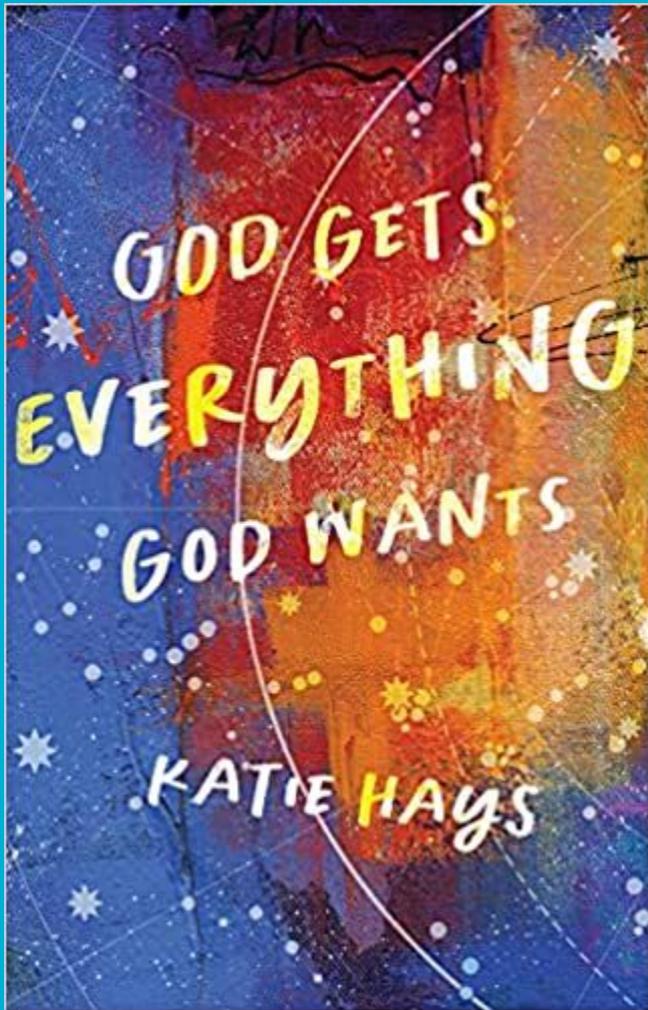


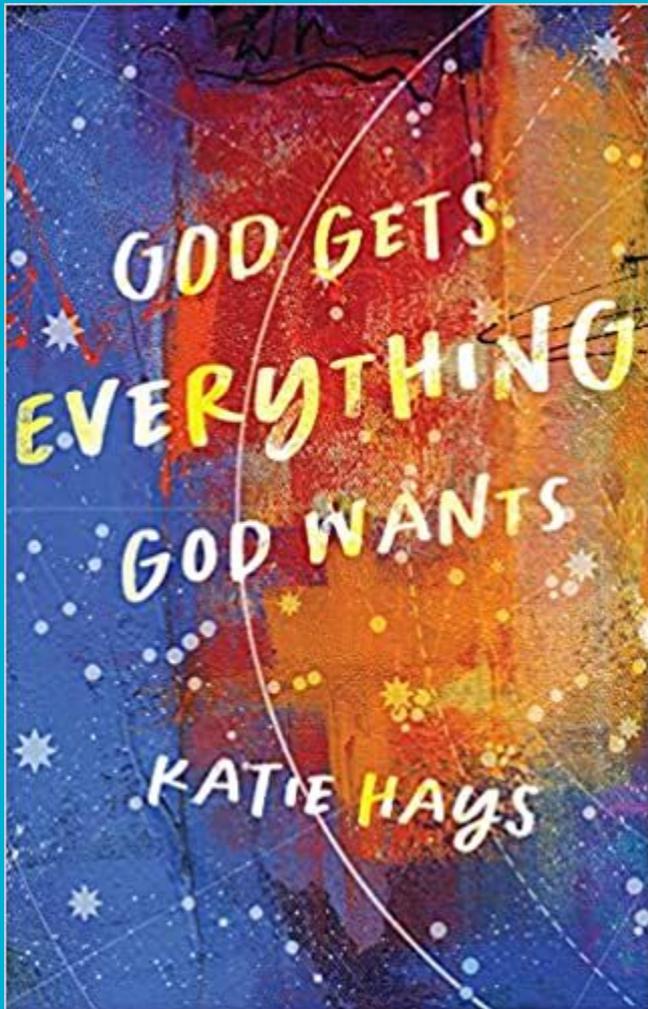
# God Gets Everything God Wants

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Advent Bible Study Part 2



Katie Hays invites weary Christians, former Christians, and the Christ-curious to take another look at God through the testimony of our biblical ancestors and to reimagine the church as a community of beautiful, broken, and burdened people doing their best to grow into their baptisms together. Hays insists that yes, God does get everything God wants, and—even better—we're invited to want what God wants, too, and want it "more and more and more, until life feels abundant and eternal and delicious and drunken with possibility."



Nov 28

Dec 7

Dec 14 - with special guest  
Rev. Dr. Katie Hays

# One Big Idea

The Bible:

+Main protagonist = God

+Plotline = God wins

+Thesis = God Gets Everything God Wants

# Two “Once Upon a Times”

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In the beginning...

- + Genesis 1//Genesis 2
- + John 1:1, 14

To appreciate all that happens in Jesus’ life, we have to go to the Wayback Machine/Magic Tree House/DeLorean and set it for “in the beginning.”

# Jesus as the Embodied Logic of God

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Jesus is the Word of God: *logos* (Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*, speaking of the father's son: "If he is not the word of God God never spoke.")

Heraclitus: *logos* is ordering principle, the way the pieces of the world fit together (animal, vegetable, mineral)

Aristotle: effective rhetoric is *ethos*, *pathos*, and *logos*; *logos* meant the ideas being presented had to make sense - the argument should follow logic.

John: In the beginning was the *logos*, the *logic*, the *ordering principle*, the *making sense*.

# Jesus as the Embodied Logic of God

Contemporary examples of *logos* - the logic by which ideas could come into being

+blueprints for architects

+scores for composers

+playbooks for coaches

+medical charts for medical teams

+instructions for IKEA furniture

# Jesus as the Embodied Logic of God

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In the beginning was the Logos...

+God has a mind, from which come ideas (everything God wants!)

+God's ideas get translated into reality by means of God's logos/logic

+God's own logic eventually puts on a body and enters its own creation

Jesus IS everything God wants. Jesus IS God getting everything God wants.

# Jesus as the Embodied Logic of God

Jesus IS everything God wants. Jesus IS God getting everything God wants.

Colossians 1:15-17, 19:

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

# Jesus in a Hamster Ball

What did Jesus mostly talk about, according to the Gospels?

# Jesus in a Hamster Ball

What did Jesus mostly talk about, according to the Gospels?

The kingdom of God

(kingdom of heaven in Matthew)

John 3:1-5

# Jesus in a Hamster Ball

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Kingdom was conceptual rather than geographic. It's the state of being that accompanies the king/queen/sovereign.

+like a little seed; yeast in bread; gorgeous pearl; treasure so rich; a lost coin; lost sons; shrub; farmer; vineyard; investor; farm worker; banquet; wedding; bridesmaid; fishing net

Despite all the appearance to the contrary, God is in charge. God gets everything God wants.

# Jesus in a Hamster Ball

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Mark 1:14-15 (Advent 2: John the Baptist; Mark's Christmas narrative)

Near = at hand = so close you can reach out and touch it

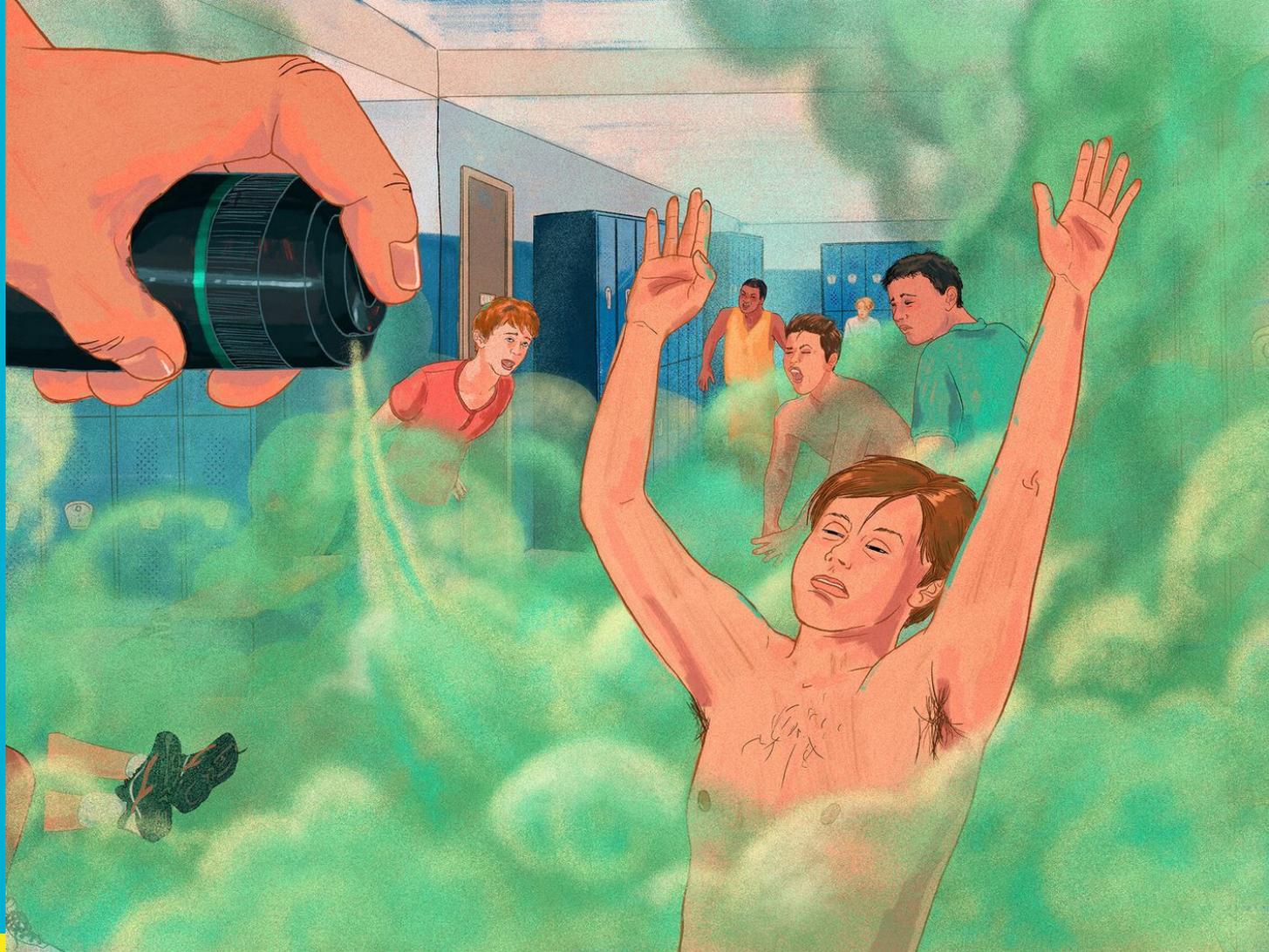
Kingdom of God = Gospel of God

God being in charge - GGEGW - is meant to be good news, the best you've ever heard.



# Jesus in a Hamster Ball

Jesus travels in an atmospheric bubble of the reign of God - not just talking about it. He is surrounded by God-getting-everything-God-wants-ness. Wherever Jesus is, GGEGW.



# Jesus in an Axe Body Spray Cloud

He's wearing a strong scent-cloud so potent that you can smell him coming and still smell him after he's passed by. He doesn't have to spray it on; he just wakes up that way.

If you get close enough to Jesus, you enter the kingdom-of-God region, a portable zone where God is GEGW, and whatever happens to God happens to you. Step into Jesus' bubble and:

Broken and sick bodies and minds get healed; hunger for food and justice gets fed; lonely get restored to relationship; guilty and shamed get mercy and dignity; captive get liberation; lost gets brand-new direction

# Jesus in an Axe Body Spray Cloud

Mark's programmatic statement: Mark 1:14-15

Jesus is a preacher above all else. But there's no Sermon on the Mount/Plain or long discourses on his own identity.

What if for Mark preaching of the kingdom of God is happening every time someone steps into the rolling cloud of GGEGW that Jesus carries with him? It's not only what he says; it's also what he does.

# Advent 2 - Turning the World Upside Down

Luke 2:1-20

Does the emperor stop GGEGW? Lack of marriage or gender reveal or hospital or baby shower? Lack of room? Lack of respected guests?

How do the shepherds respond to being in the GGEGW bubble?

What does it look like when GGEGW? Luke 2:19

Was everyone happy when GGEGW at Christmas?

# Just One Jesus, Just One Future

Good News? Unless you're...

+powerful; privileged; prejudiced; proud

The same *Axe* cloud/aura that makes some people jump with joy and has some other people throwing up a little in their mouth. Transformation requires some demolition.

# Just One Jesus, Just One Future

Mark 2:1-12

1. In the kingdom of God, community is noted and honored and powerful.
2. In the kingdom of God, everyone is related to someone.
3. In the kingdom of God, what's most broken is what's getting repaired.
4. The VRPs cannot recognize this kingdom of God.

# Just One Jesus, Just One Future

Best day ever for the paralytic; not for VRPs.

Same Jesus. Same kingdom of God.

GGEGW - it's happening now if you get close to Jesus. News, yes.  
Good? Depends.

If the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, if we are all headed toward the future of God's dreams, and it's just one future for everything and everyone, what if the heaven-or-hell-ness of it is *actually about you* and what kind of person you have become over your lifetime?

# Just One Jesus, Just One Future

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If you've followed Jesus: justice, kindness, mercy, freedom, then when GGEGW, it's heaven for you.

If you've invested a lot of energy in preserving a status quo that works nicely for you, it may be that when GGEGW, it hurts like hell.

We are in motion toward the fullness of God's reign, and decisions we're making now, the ways we're cooperating or not with God's renovations of the cosmos, make all the difference in how it will seem to us when GGEGW. Heaven or hell - we're deciding every day.

# Just One Jesus, Just One Future

The one person who really knows who came back to life never talked about it at all. What did Jesus talk about post-resurrection? Acts 1:3

No way to make us understand; what ultimately happens to us was never the main point anyway. GGEGW, and that's supposed to be enough to go on.