



The Kingdom Revealed

Week of August 28, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 13:31-32

It's easy for us to take for granted the things we've read in the Bible, especially if they are things we've heard our whole lives. Many times we nod in remembrance of the stories, but at the same time are completely missing what God is trying to tell us. The Kingdom of Heaven can seem distant and detached; something that we might one day see, but not possibly here today or tomorrow. But, that is not true! The Kingdom is right here where the Spirit of God dwells. However, to be able to live in the Kingdom, we must think Kingdom! We need to learn how to think Kingdom first, and not let our worldly views of "big" and "small" get in the way. The good news is that we have been shown the way. Jesus said that the Kingdom is here now and it is better than anything else we might be distracted by in this temporary life on Earth.

Pray

Lord, open our eyes to your truth. Help us to see that your Kingdom is here and now, and that we hold the keys to its gates. You have opened the way for us, but we recognize that as humans it won't be easy. We must continually turn to you for the strength to put your Kingdom first always, and to forget the world's view of what is important and what isn't. Thank you for your gift of life and a better way to live; a way that will change our lives and the lives we come into contact with in ways more profound than we could have ever comprehended.

Getting Started

- When was a time where you wanted something really bad, but once you finally got it you realized that it wasn't all that great?
- Was there ever a time where the opposite happened? Where you got something you placed little value in, only to find out it was actually pretty valuable to you?

Listening Deeply

1. Thinking about the Kingdom concept, how might the events you or others just talked about relate to what Jesus was trying to say in the parable of Matthew 13:31-32?
2. Read Matthew 6:33 out loud. What are the "these things" that will be given to you in return for seeking God first? Give as many examples that you can from your life and experience with God.
3. What affect do you think "thinking Kingdom" would have in your life? What might change?
4. If you were to think Kingdom before yourself, how would that impact your family? Friends? How would putting Kingdom first change your school or work relationships?
5. How could you help the Church if you were to give your all for the Kingdom?
6. So, knowing all the things that "thinking Kingdom" could change, what will it take for you to get there? What might be holding you back? What are some ways you can get past your barriers?

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus told parables all throughout his life on Earth. His parables were simple stories, but shared profound truths. The parable of the mustard seed is no different. If you don't know how to think Kingdom, then just read the Bible and follow the story of Jesus. Jesus modeled the "Kingdom first" concept. He showed us how to do it, and he showed the world that what was "big" in its eyes was actually small, and what it thought insignificant was actually the most important thing of all!

- Dare to let the Holy Spirit plant a seed of Hope in you; hope that can lead you to spread Kingdom seeds where you would naturally gravitate towards putting yourself first.
- Believe that the Kingdom is here, and that what you do, no matter how small, can make a real difference. Put the Kingdom first, and watch as the Holy Spirit transforms your life into something that you never knew it could become!