



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

## Message Recap:

### Read Matthew 6:9-14

To live Jesus, we must think Kingdom, which goes in direct opposition of how we are used to thinking. The five steps to thinking Kingdom are not easy. They each require a cost; a sacrifice of some sort. The first step is to be born again (John 3:3). New beginnings first require endings; we can't enter Kingdom life until we reject a broken life in a fallen world. Next we must live sick of the lifelessness of "life" on Earth—which is the emptiness of life apart from God (James 4:4). We can't think Kingdom if we are thinking broken. We also must learn to distrust what we think and feel as the truth. Our natural interpretation of people and things is not God's interpretation (Isaiah 55:8). Instead, thinking Kingdom means looking for the paradox—this is the wholeness behind the broken that God reveals. Finally, to think Kingdom, we need to return to simplicity in the face of overwhelming complexity (Matthew 18:3). It's not about dumbing down the Scriptures but instead understanding the simplicity of the message—Jesus loved us and died for us, and now he invites us into relationship with him and empowers us with the Holy Spirit.

## Pray

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.

## Getting Started

- What is the biggest concern that consumes your thoughts?
- How many times in your life have things turned out exactly the way you planned them? Did they turn out better, or worse?

## Digging Deeper

1. Thinking Kingdom requires some difficult steps that come with a cost. Do you think it should be easy to follow Jesus, or is it important that sacrifice is involved? Why?
2. Read John 3:3. To Think Kingdom, you must be born again; what does it mean to be born again? Why is this necessary?
3. Thinking Kingdom means we must live sick of the lifelessness of "our life." Define this lifelessness and discuss why we shouldn't seek satisfaction in our life on earth.
4. To Think Kingdom, you must learn to distrust what you think and feel. Why? Does this mean we deny our feelings?
5. Read Isaiah 55:8. If we can't trust our thoughts and feelings, how does this verse help us?
6. Thinking Kingdom means we look for the paradox. Define paradox.
7. Read Matthew 10:39, Mark 10:44, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do these verses define the paradox of Jesus? How does this help you Think Kingdom and Think Jesus?
8. Describe the last step in your own words: In the Face of Overwhelming Complexity, Return to Simplicity.

## Living Jesus

If we continue living in this world as if we were of this world, then we are no different than anyone else. If we look to the world to fill us or show us the way, we aren't thinking Kingdom. We aren't living Jesus. Thinking Kingdom means that we put on the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and think in paradox to how the world thinks. Instead of trusting the world, or trusting ourselves, we trust God, seek Jesus and live according to the Holy Spirit.