

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

YOUR KINGDOM COME

In Cape Town as it is in Heaven

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus taught us to pray the words “your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This eternal kingdom has great realities for us in our next life as well as the right here, right now. Our kingdom series is going to unpack the exciting truth and implications for the reality of the already and not-yet dynamics of God’s kingdom as it advances and moves to bring restoration, truth, justice and hope to a broken world.

Week 1

GOALS

- Deepen our understanding of what Jesus meant when he spoke about his Kingdom
- Grow in relationship with each other
- Grow in our confidence in God and the gospel and how it pertains to our daily lives

TIPS

- This series is theological, it is preferable to have listened to the Sunday messages, especially the person leading the Life Group discussion.
- Life Group Leaders, we suggest doing a little more reading of Matthew 13 commentary over this series to equip yourself for leading well. It is our hope that over these series, our leaders are going deeper in Scripture to be able to lead out of a richer depth of pursuit and understanding of God and his word. Some good commentaries to consider reading over this time:
- <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/matthew/13.html>
- https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-Mat/Mat-13.cfm

HEADLINES

- The coming of God's kingdom is defined by the book of Isaiah. There we find that there are at least 11 aspects to the coming of God's kingdom.
- The surprising thing about God's coming is that it has arrived even before the end of the present evil age. We live in the overlap of two ages.

Present Evil Age	Coming Kingdom Age
Injustice: God's reign is hidden	Justice: God's reign breaks through to make things right
Darkness: God is not known	Light: God reveals his glory
No or little Spirit	Spirit abundantly poured out
Oppression	Salvation
Guilt	Forgiveness
Sick and broken	Healed and whole
Distress and despair	Peace, comfort and joy
Nations oppress God's people	Nations flood into God's people
Rebellion, arrogance, idolatry	God overcomes his enemies
Death	Death is destroyed / Resurrection bodies
Fallen creation	New creation
Present Evil Age	Coming Kingdom Age
Injustice: God's reign is hidden	Justice: God's reign makes things right

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for this series and this group that we get to journey with to understand your kingdom and work on earth better. Help our minds and hearts to be open to all that you want us to know and understand in order to best worship you and serve you in our lives. Be with us this evening as we unpack your words and teachings. Amen.

DISCUSSION

1. Did anything stand out for you in Sunday's talk that you hadn't considered before or was a surprise? Were there any take-home applications from Sunday, or any questions you had?
2. What images come to mind when you hear kingdom?
3. What do you think needs to be in place for there to be a kingdom?
4. Read the following scriptures: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
5. What is Jesus describing here?
6. What types of responses to the gospel are represented here?
7. The point of this parable is about people's responses to God's truth about his kingdom. But, even after becoming a Christ-follower, these can represent us at different times of our journeys with God. What type of seed do you currently feel like? What do you think this group could do to help you to flourish even more?

PRAY

Spend some time praying for each other and your responses to the last question. Pray that as a group and individuals, you will be receptive of God's teaching over this series with openness and deep roots of faith. Let's trust for enriched lives of faith as a result of these weeks together.