

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE
SEEING GOD'S KINGDOM
ADVANCE TODAY

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

³ "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

"In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹ The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 29:18-19 (ESV)

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy." Isaiah 35:3-6 (ESV)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn..." Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV)

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2 (ESV)

²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." Luke 17:20-21 (ESV)

⁴¹ As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately." Luke 19:11 (ESV)

⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Luke 23:42 (ESV)

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 7:18-35. Seems like John has had a moment of doubt about Jesus' identity. Why might that be?
- Read Luke 7:18-35. Why would John's messengers have interpreted Jesus' answer as a "yes?" (Hint: Look at Isaiah passages).

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use question #8 from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 50)
- What is the "Kingdom of God?" In what sense are we in it and/or outside of it? How can Jesus say that John is both the greatest, but the least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater? (use your *People's Bible Commentary* or kretzmannproject.org if you need help).
- What are ways does Jesus call His disciples (us) to provide people with glimpses of the Kingdom of God?
- Why are words and good works both essential components of discipleship and church ministry? What happens when you remove one or the other from the equation?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Are you more apt to speak the Gospel or demonstrated it through actions? How can you improve your weak side this week?
- If Jesus is a king (John 18:36), we are His servants. How can we approach this week with more reverence and obedience?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "Lord, may your kingdom come. May it come in increasing measure in my heart and through me, so that others may hear it and see it. I pray that you would come again soon to relieve this world of sin and restore it back to goodness, just as you originally created it. Amen."

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What was a memorable passage from your Life Journal (or other Bible reading plan) reading this past week?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. What good can we do around here (are there any community needs God is calling us to meet)?
4. Pray for one another.