

A. Sermon Slides

Slide 1

While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "Which," he said, "you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

Slide 2 (cont.)

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority."

Slide 3 (cont.)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:4-8, CSB)

Slide 4

A Short Story: On Kingdom Power

Luke 13:19-21

Slide 5

What do we mean when we say: *The Kingdom of God?*

Slide 6

"The Kingdom of God creates a realm, it creates a people, but it is not synonymous with them. Instead, the word kingdom is synonymous with a kingly rule, reign, action, lordship, or sovereign governance."
- John Piper

Slide 7

He said, therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It's like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches."

Slide 8 (cont.)

Again he said, "What can I compare the kingdom of God to? It's like leaven that a woman took and mixed into fifty pounds of flour until all of it was leavened." (Luke 13:18-21, CSB)

Slide 9

Kingdom Development Phase 1: The Saving Reign

Slide 10

The entire life of Jesus looked insignificant from the outside.

Slide 11

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:23-24, CSB)

Slide 12

Kingdom Development Phase 1 - Complete.

Slide 13

“The Kingdom of God is God’s reign, his sovereign action in the world to redeem and deliver a people and then at a future time finish it and renew his people and the universe completely.” - John Piper

Slide 14

“Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are considered as a speck of dust on the scales...”
(Isaiah 40:15, CSB)

Slide 15

“Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:

Slide 16 (cont.)

About sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”
(John 16:7-11, CSB)

Slide 17

Jesus Promised:

- 1) You will experience suffering in this world.
- 2) I (Jesus) have overcome the world.

B. COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

Welcome to another digital community group! Our pastors and leaders are so thankful that you are actively choosing to engage in community when there is every excuse not to! What you are doing is continuing to see the Kingdom of God come in this city by gathering together in whatever way you can and allowing the truth of God's Word to be declared. - Pastor Josh

Opening:

Spend some time going around and "checking in" with one another. Be intentional to ask specific questions about one another and press in when someone doesn't seem to be doing okay.

Begin by reading Acts 1:4-5 and discuss the anticipation the disciples might have been feeling after Jesus' promise about the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

- 1) How might we as 21st Century Christians devalue or take for granted the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Continue reading Acts 1:6-8

- 2) Have you ever experienced a similar feeling when you thought Jesus had promised you great things and then suddenly disappeared? Discuss.

Our *Short Story* this weekend comes from Luke 13:19-21, a dual parable on the subject of the Kingdom and power of God.

- 3) What do you associate with the idea of a kingdom? (Kings & queens? Castles & lands? Heros and villans?) How do these ideas differ from what was presented as the Kingdom of God in this weekend's message?

*"The Kingdom of God creates a relm, it creates a people, but it is not synonymous with them. Instead, we think the word **kingdom** is **synonymous** with a **kingly rule, reign, action, lordship, or sovereign governance.**" - John Piper*

- 4) What is the difference between God's sovereign reign (that has existed and will continue to exist for all eternity) and God's saving and kingly reign?

Saving Reign = *Established by Jesus Christ, the small and unassuming mustard seed that came down from heaven and was buried in the earth, but has burst forth into new life, providing shelter for all who would call upon his name!*

Kingly Reign = *The impact (leaven affect) of followers of Jesus living according to His Word, His Spirit, and His leading in their lives every single day - impacting the world as far as their influence can reach.*

- 5) Pastor Josh spent some time talking about the difference between waiting on the Kingdom of God to come versus living as though the Kingdom of God is here. Discuss the difference and how leaning too heavily one way or the other could potentially disrupt your walk with Christ.

When Jesus changed his illustration in Luke 13:20, he also changed his audience. Discuss the cultural relevance and what that might mean for us today.

It's tempting to feel like during this time of isolation, we are "on a break" from our opportunity to further the Kingdom of God. If we're adhering to our authorities, we are not spending as much time in the world as we did six weeks ago.

- 6) How can we continue to be mindful of Kingdom opportunities during our day-to-day under the *shelter-at-home* restriction?

Ideas: Marriage? Parenting? School? Social Media? Telecommuting?

The amount of time we're spending at home is revealing more about our true selves than most of us could have expected. We're realizing our stresses, our anxieties, our fears, our selfishness, our coping habits, our lack of self-control. It's so tempting during this time to feel completely powerless. And yet, we have access to a hope and a power that the disciples in Acts 1 could only dream about and had yet to understand: the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

As you conclude your group time and transition to prayer, end by reading John 16:7-33. Let this encouragement that Jesus gave to his disciples on the night of his arrest also encourage your hearts as you are reminded of two things:

#1 Because of the Holy Spirit, we will never be alone.

#2 The Kingdom of God has conquered the kingdoms of man, and his Kingdom is just getting started!

Read John 16:7-33 and pray.