



Thy
KINGDOM
come

THY KINGDOM COME

BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR C.O.R.E. GROUP
DISCIPLESHIP



EVERY NATION
ABU DHABI

LET'S START

The Kingdom of God

- What comes to mind when you hear the word kingdom?
- If you were to build a kingdom, how would it look like?

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:16-20

Among the four Gospel writers, it is Matthew who emphasized that Jesus is a king who has inaugurated his own kingdom. In fact, Matthew begins his Gospel with, *"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David..."* (Matthew 1:1). Matthew recalled the Davidic promise in 2 Samuel 7, where God promised David that the Lord would establish his kingdom forever through his offspring (see 2 Samuel 7:12-16). God was prophetically referring to Jesus, the King, a descendant of David, who was to come, as the fulfillment of this promise.

The word *"Christian"* is mentioned in the New Testament three times while *"Christianity"* 0 times. In contrast, the phrase *"Kingdom of God/heaven"* appears 142 times in the New Testament. This emphasis strongly suggests that the message Jesus brought was the coming of His kingdom on earth and in our lives.

However, the Jews, the 12 disciples included, have long thought that this promise referred to God redeeming the earthly kingdom of Israel. Since they were subjected to Roman rule, they longed for a political king like David who would liberate them from Rome. When Jesus came, they had hoped he was that political ruler. But when he was pierced on the cross, they had thought all their hopes for a renewed national kingdom were dashed.

Jesus is the king who established an eternal kingdom. God's kingdom has come (see Matthew 4:17) because King Jesus has come. We are part of His kingdom made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection. As citizens of God's kingdom, we have a task to accomplish: spread His kingdom to others from every tribe, tongue, nation and people.

Why is it
important to
feel a sense of
belonging in
the Kingdom
of God?

How does the Kingdom of Christ spread through us?

1. We belong

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...
Matthew 1:3a

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab...
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth...
Matthew 1:5

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife...
Matthew 1:6b

... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.
Matthew 1:16

Jewish genealogies only included men and excluded Gentiles, women, etc. Interestingly, Matthew's account included them in the genealogy of Jesus. Why? Because Matthew wanted to tell them they belonged.

Matthew's gospel also emphasized that outcasts, outsiders and offenders have a place in the kingdom of God. He too was one, being a Jewish tax collector working for the Roman occupiers and spurned by his fellow Jews. And yet, Jesus called him to belong.

2. We believe

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." **Matthew 16:16***

When the outcasts, outsiders and offenders felt they belonged in the Kingdom, they started to believe. Sometimes, we think believing should come first before belonging. However, we see Jesus making people feel they belonged which eventually encouraged them to believe in Him.

*How have you
decided to
believe in Jesus?*

3. We behave

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. **Matthew 5:1-2**

Kingdom people are expected to behave according to the ways of the kingdom. Jesus, throughout the gospel of Matthew, taught us how to live as citizens of the Kingdom. One of Jesus' teachings, the Beatitudes, explained how we should behave and live out our kingdom identity.

*How do you think
we should behave
as God's
children?*

4. We broadcast

*"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." **Matthew 9:9***

*"Therefore go and make disciples..." **Matthew 28:19a***

Among the Gospel writers, it was only Matthew who mentioned the phrase *"make disciples"*. Different writers had different thrusts, yet had the same message: spread the good news of the kingdom. A disciple means a pupil/follower. In the same way that Matthew was called, he also wanted to invite people to follow Jesus, the king.

We can do this by sharing our testimony, sharing the Word of God, and proclaiming the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to the world. In turn, once they understand the message of the kingdom, let's empower them to broadcast it to others as well.

What does
'Follow me' mean
to you?

5. We broaden

^{19b} ... of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:19b-20**

God calls us to reach all nations, not only people from your own nation but every nation. It is important to note that nations here do not refer to geographical or political countries. It means all peoples in different tribes, tongues, and nations.

We do not have to go anywhere to reach the nations because here we are surrounded by peoples from different nations. We can start with one or two from where we are.

How would you
respond to Jesus'
command to go
and make
disciples of all
nations?

LET'S PRAY

- *Pray for God to empower you to live as citizens of the Kingdom, especially around those who are not believers of Christ yet.*
- *Pray for God to use you to reach out to someone from another culture so this person may hear and know how to become a part of God's kingdom.*

LET'S APPLY

- *Remember the time when God invited you to be part of His family. Share your testimony with someone.*
- *This week, engage and try to build a friendship with someone from another nation who does not know Jesus yet and pray that God would use you to lead that person into His kingdom.*



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