



SONGS: "Great Things", "Holy Spirit/ Spirit Break Out", "Build Your Church"

TITLE: "The Refocused Kingdom Life"

ICE BREAKER: If you were living in a virtual world, what would your avatar look like? OR If you could establish a kingdom in this world, where would it be located?

BIG IDEA: Living on mission with Jesus requires us to refocus our life choices towards a heavenly kingdom perspective.

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:6-14

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹²Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

OPENING THOUGHTS:

Living on mission with Jesus requires us to reorient our lifestyle choices towards living out our heavenly values. Our focus is often towards the earthly Kingdom--temporary thrills and rewards but no eternal value, but Jesus wants us to focus on things that will matter for eternity.

MAIN POINTS:

1. Where was the apostles focus? [Acts 1:6-8]
2. Where is your focus? Earthly Kingdom or Heavenly Kingdom?
3. LIFESTYLE OF 2 KINGDOMS--Earthly or Heavenly –

EARTHLY KINGDOM LIVING:

- We can continue to live only for the Kingdom of this world, but the returns are earthly, momentary, and often emptier than what we hoped for.
- Kingdom of this world is self-reliant, power-hungry, pleasure-seeking, selfishly oriented.
- Earthly kingdom is easier to live in, doesn't really demand our entire buy-in. We can experience as much or as little as we want, but the long-term rewards are momentary. --HEAVENLY KINGDOM LIVING • We can learn to live in the now and not yet dimension of the Heavenly Kingdom where the returns are eternal, more fulfilling with greater impact. It was a higher calling with greater eternal rewards.
- Heavenly kingdom is hard to live in because it requires us to take up our cross to follow Jesus, but the rewards are eternal—we will enjoy them forever and ever and ever!
- Heavenly kingdom lifestyle is one empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is a lifestyle of people on mission together, living out their unique giftedness and callings.
- Heavenly kingdom living is where we work together to make this earthly kingdom a better place by bringing love, hope, compassion, freedom.

4. HOW DO WE LIVE IN THESE 2 KINGDOMS SIMULTANEOUSLY AND DO IT WELL? [Acts 1:9-14]

- Get your focus right.
- Get your orientation right.
- Get your heart right.
- Get your community right.
- Get your lifestyle choices right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Acts 1:6-8--Where was the apostles focus? Where was Jesus's focus?

2. Acts 1:9-14--What had to change for the apostles to get themselves refocused?
3. Where is your focus currently--Earthly or heavenly? What changes to you need to make to reorient yourself towards a heavenly perspective?
4. What is one change you can make to move you towards a Heavenly Kingdom lifestyle?
5. What are some earthly lifestyle choices you have made that have distracted you from being on mission with Jesus?

FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

Acts 1-2: Read through on your own or as a group the beginnings of Christ's church. Look for the attitudinal changes that happen as they move from an earthly perspective through the end of Chapter 2.

CHALLENGE: To reorient one's lifestyles away from living for earthly pleasures and treasures, towards a heavenly Kingdom impact that changes lives and brings hope and love to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dearest Heavenly Father--Thank you for creating us to be your people on mission. Forgive us Father when we get off course, distracted by this earthly kingdom. Help us, Lord, to be willing to give up temporary pleasures for eternal rewards. Help us see you working in power through us, your Church. We want to be a people on mission with Jesus--bring light and life to all we live near. Empower us with your Holy Spirit. We release everything that we hold on to which prevents us from living a life of impact. We receive the Spirit's power and guidance as we move forward together with you. Thank you for this hope and promise for eternal impact and rewards in your Kingdom! Amen.