



TITLE: What is the Kingdom of God?

ICE BREAKER: How would you describe the Kingdom of God to someone that has never heard the Gospel (The good news about Jesus)?

BIG IDEA: The Kingdom of God is not a Place it's a Posture

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 13:44-46 44

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

OPENING THOUGHTS: The kingdom of God was something Jesus talked about a lot! Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." (John 18:36) After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15) The Greek term for 'kingdom' is used 162 times in the New Testament, with most of them referring to the Kingdom of God. Many people think of the kingdom of God as heaven or as the church. However, the kingdom of God is not an actual physical place. In its simplest definition; The kingdom of God is a spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God's authority.

MAIN POINTS:

- God Reigns over Everything
- Sin Challenges God's Authority
- The Inauguration of the Kingdom on earth happened when Jesus was born
- The Kingdom is to be Received
- Entrance into the Kingdom requires Faith and Repentance
- The Kingdom Standard is Holiness
- The Kingdom is Mysterious
- We are Ambassadors of the Kingdom

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe the Kingdom of God?
2. How is the kingdom of God different than Heaven and the Church?
3. How will you receive the Kingdom of God in your life?
4. How will share the Kingdom of God in others lives?

BIBLE FURTHER STUDY:

CHALLENGE: How will you position yourself to share the Kingdom of God? Understanding the Kingdom of God should stir in us an urgency to tell others about it. We should be challenged to Go and Make Disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey the King and his standard of Holiness. To baptize people into the Kingdom by the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. God's patience with us will not last forever and the promise is that Jesus will return to complete his Kingdom. His second coming will not be to redeem, but to judge. Because we do not know the day or time, we are to use our time wisely to help others receive the kingdom through faith in Jesus!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father God our King we bow before You. All power and authority belong to You and we thank You that You have chosen to establish your kingdom. In perfect justice, You could have written us off and left us to the ruin of our rebellion. But in love and mercy, You chose to bring all who believe into Your kingdom. We are so thankful, and we embrace You as our Lord and our King. Father, we pray that Your reign may be seen more clearly in and through our lives. Forgive us for the complacency with which we have given room to sins in our lives that have no place in Your kingdom. May the truth of Your Word call us to a standard of Holiness. We pray and live for the spread of the gospel in our world. There are people we love who, today, are outside of your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, bring them in! Cause them to be born again we pray. Deliver them from the kingdom of darkness. Help us to do Your work while it is day before the night comes when no one can work. We pray for the day when Christ will return. We long for the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever (Revelation 11:15). Your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray amen.