

Real Gospel for the Real World

December 12, 2021

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:9-10; Matthew 4:17; 5; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:42-43;

Bottom Line: The Gospel is the Kingdom, and the Kingdom requires a decision

We want to see hearts changed by the Gospel and lives lived differently for the sake of the Kingdom. We equip each other to connect our faith to the everyday needs and challenges of living according to the way of Jesus in an ever-changing culture.

What is the “Real Gospel?”

- Gospel = good news
- In Hebrew, good news = a royal announcement that a King reigns
- In Isaiah 40, the good news is that God is coming to reign over His creation once again
- Jesus says the good news is that the prophecy from Isaiah 40 is fulfilled and God's Kingdom is finally here!

The Gospel of the Kingdom Changes How We Live

- The gospel requires a decision: which kingdom do you want to live in? Who will be your King, you or Jesus?
- If you choose Jesus' Kingdom, you begin to adapt His way of life: loving our enemies instead of hating them, practicing radical forgiveness
- Living in Jesus' Kingdom also means learning how to see the world through His eyes

Growing in Living Out the Gospel

- Join a community of people who are committed to living out the gospel
- Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7) and begin to understand what Jesus' Kingdom is like.

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one or more of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. How did you understand the Gospel growing up (or even now)? How is it different from the Gospel that Jesus preaches?
3. What does it mean for you (personally) to live in Jesus Kingdom? What difference does it make?
4. In what areas do you find it difficult to be a citizen of God's Kingdom? Where are you still trying to build your own Kingdom?