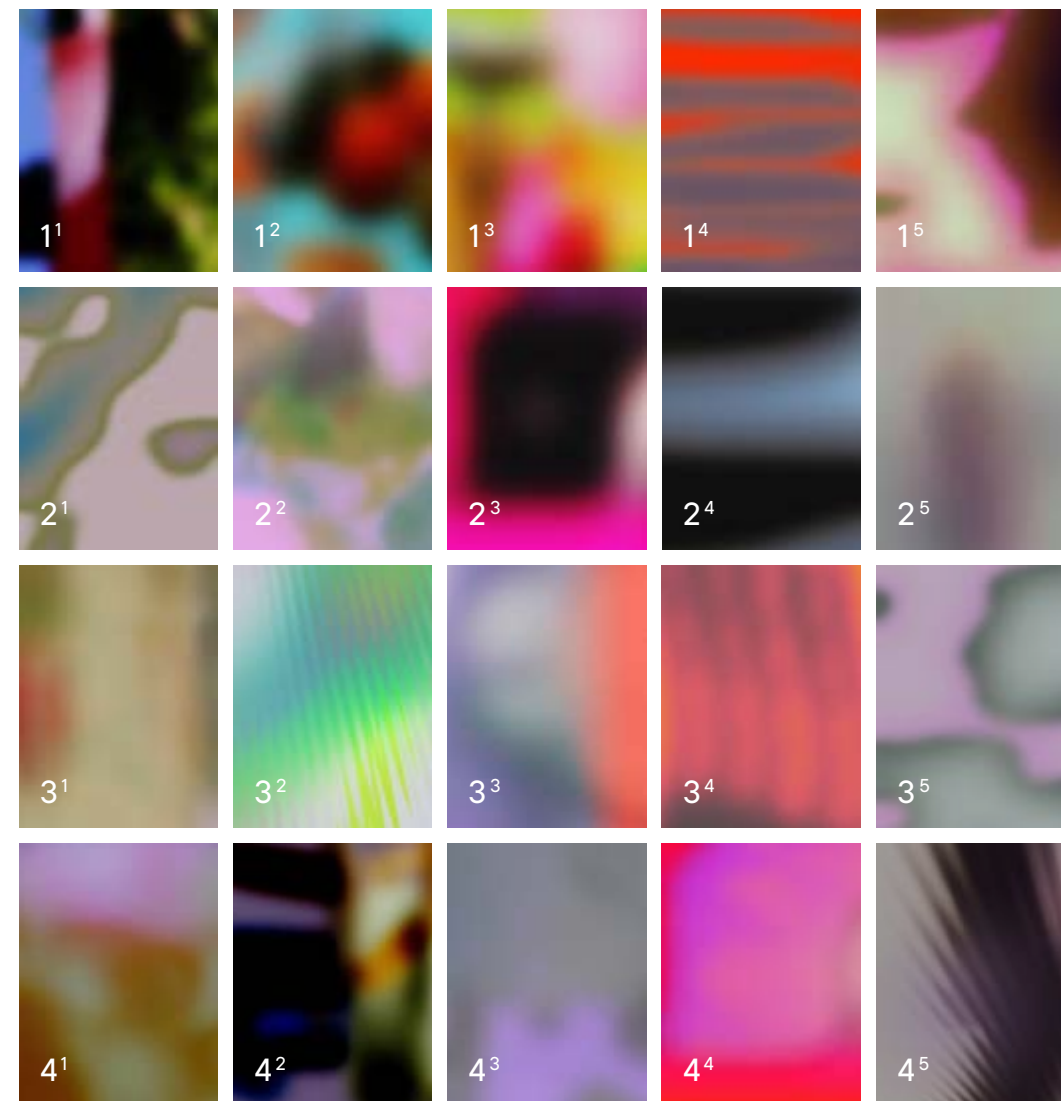
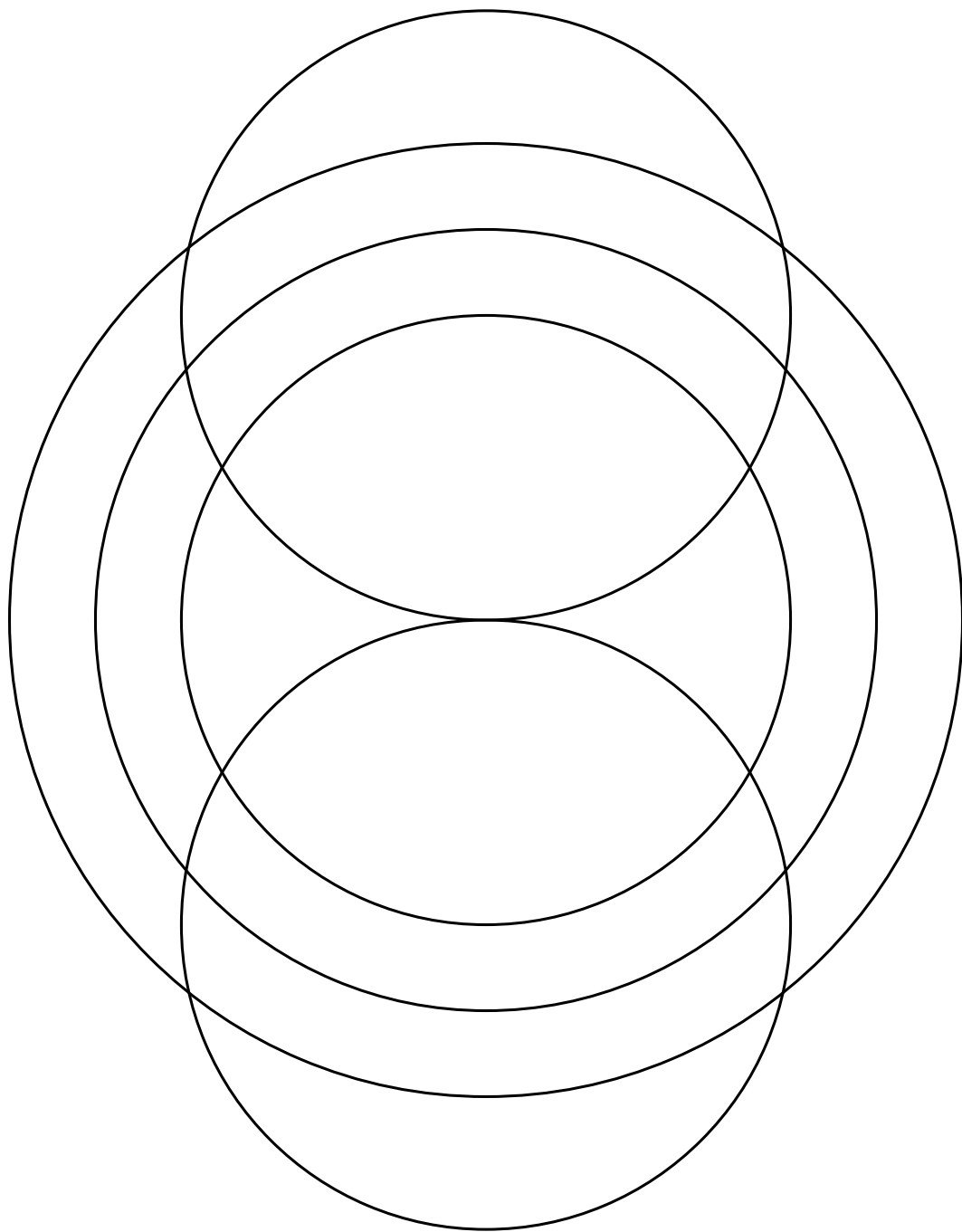
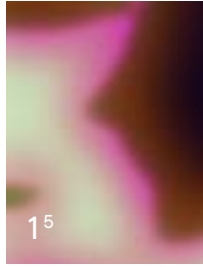
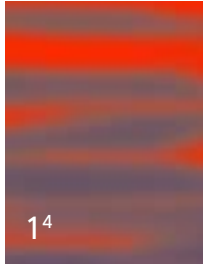
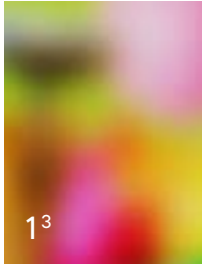
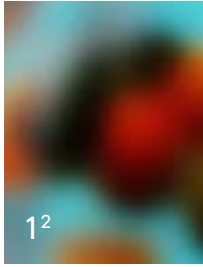




Part 2

The Kingdom of God



Week 1

The Nature of the Kingdom

An Eternal Home in the Kingdom

One of the most daring and heavy things to ask yourself in this life is, “What happens when I die?” There is a reason we constantly avoid sitting in our thoughts and contemplations of a life outside of this earth – It’s scary! For the believer who has placed their trust and faith in Jesus, the bible gives us relief and hope, allowing anxiety and fear to fade away. The passage today allows us to truly understand our eternal home.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

How does considering eternal life make you think about your priorities?

What does this verse reveal about God’s promise for His people?

Our Heavenly Dwelling

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

The Higher Ways of the Kingdom

Life is complex. Things don't totally go the way we plan. Whether it's rain on a day we hoped to be sunny, or a tragic death where we hoped to share life with someone for much longer. It's full of small and massive life-changing moments that we may never get an answer to in this life. For the Christian, we put our hope in the good news that there is someone in control with much more power and knowledge over the outcomes we face each day. Someone wiser than you can comprehend, and more loving than you could ever imagine.

Read Isaiah 55:9-11

How would your life change if you trusted God's ways even when you don't understand them?

What does this verse reveal about God's wisdom and sovereignty?

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, ¹¹ so My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it.

Storing Treasures in Heaven

It’s so easy to put all your hope into what you can see. There is much to achieve, build, experience, and chase after in this world! Every day is a new opportunity to build the life you want. We are told things like... “You only live once,” and “I’m not here for a long time, but I am here for a good time.” And while those things have some truth, they also reflect a narrative much smaller than the bible’s vision. Let’s see what the bible says about how citizens of heaven should think about their lives on earth.

Read Matthew 6:19-20

Where do you invest most of your time and resources?

Why does God call us to store up treasures in heaven?

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Seeking First the Kingdom

As life evolves and seasons change, our priorities change. From being a kid, to being in school, and one day starting a family, ... our goals and pursuits change significantly. We get locked into a routine and habits to achieve goals and pursue dreams. There is a moment with Jesus in the bible where he invites us to consider our priorities in a whole new order. Let's see what God says about our ambitions and pursuits.

Read Matthew 6:25-33

What is your highest priority in life?

How does God say he will provide when we seek His Kingdom above all?

Do Not Be Anxious

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the lilies of the field grow: They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles strive after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.

The Kingdom is Received with Childlike Faith

It seems counterintuitive or irresponsible to take on something like a child when you are an adult. When you are young, you drift into things, trust blindly, and leap into your parents’ arms. You play without regard and dream without limits. This is the kind of person that Jesus says will be able to receive the Kingdom of God.

Read Luke 18:16-17

What would it take for you to trust God with the simplicity and faith of a child?

Why does God value childlike faith in His Kingdom?

¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”