



Kingdom & Discipleship

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EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

KINGDOM & DISCIPLESHIP

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INTRODUCTION

As believers of Christ and citizens of a coming eternal kingdom, we believe that we are called to make disciples and train leaders in every sphere of society. Our desire is for the church to develop a biblical worldview and apply it wherever we are called. We trust that God is sovereign over the affairs of this world and our nation, and we believe we have a part to play in the advancement of His kingdom. As we continue to make Him known, we will see our nation transformed and disciplined for His glory.

The kingdom of God, also known as the kingdom of heaven, refers to the realm or sphere in which God rules as King. It is not limited to God's rule in heaven, but also includes the kingdom of God on earth, where Jesus reigns as King. It is not limited to a particular geographical area or people group, but its influence is experienced in any sphere and in anyone where Jesus is acknowledged as King (Luke 17:20–21). The kingdom of God may be in individuals, families, institutions, and spheres of society. It is not synonymous with the Church, though the Church is part of it.

Others view the kingdom as not referring to the people or spheres where God rules, but rather to the activity of God Himself as King, or the exercise of His sovereign power.

The kingdom of God is considered to be the central theme of Jesus' ministry and message. The Jews were longing for liberation from their Roman oppressors, but Jesus' announcement was for more than just economic freedom. The gospel that Jesus preached was the good news that God's kingdom was at hand. He was preaching the coming of the kingdom of God—God's kind of rule that would ultimately satisfy the longings of the whole world for a benevolent and caring, righteous and just rulership. The forgiveness of sins, salvation, restoration, healing, and freedom from the bondage of the enemy are all aspects or benefits of God's kingdom.

This kingdom was inaugurated when King Jesus came as the promised Messiah. It continues to advance and expand even

now. One day, the kingdom will be fully consummated when Jesus Christ comes again in His glory to fully establish His kingdom here on earth.

In order to carry this out, King Jesus, in Matthew 28:19, commanded His disciples to advance His kingdom by discipling nations. The word “nations” refers to the different people groups in the world and not just the geo-political nations of today. This is an immense task that requires God’s power and guidance and the full involvement of the body of Christ. However, each of us can take part in discipling the nations by starting with one nation—our own.

This set of Victory group materials gives a biblical understanding of the kingdom of God by examining the different commands, teachings, and parables which Jesus told to describe the kingdom.

The first section contains two lessons that provide the biblical foundation for advancing God’s kingdom through discipling nations as we examine Jesus’ Great Commission.

The second section, entitled “Kingdom Parables,” is made up of lessons from Jesus’ parables about the kingdom of God. Parables are short stories that make use of situations in everyday life in order to teach spiritual truth, and should not be treated as allegories where the details have symbolic meaning. In order to understand a parable, we need to look for the relevant details that are crucial to the point of the story. Not every detail in a parable is relevant; some merely add realism to the story. A parable usually has only one main lesson.

The last section, entitled “The Upside-Down Kingdom,” examines different teachings of Jesus on how His disciples are to live and how things work in His kingdom—often the exact opposite of how the world works. This is why many theologians and Bible scholars describe God’s kingdom as “upside-down.”

May this material help equip you and your Victory group to advance God’s kingdom by discipling a nation, wherever you are and in whatever you are called to do.

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Advancing God's Kingdom through Discipleship

WARM-UP

- Who is the strongest person you know? What do you think happened for him or her to be that way?
- How do you respond to authority in your life (e.g., parent, teacher, police officer, boss)? Why do you think you respond that way?
- What do you think your last words would be to your family and friends?

WORD ¹⁸*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

The kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus' ministry. When He began His earthly ministry, He preached, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). As of that moment, Satan had authority over the earth (Matthew 4:9; Luke 4:5-6). Jesus was declaring that the coming of the kingdom of heaven, the awaited time of God's rule and reign over the earth, was near. Later, on the cross, Jesus disarmed the demonic rulers and authorities and was victorious over them (Colossians 2:15). Right before His ascension and enthronement in heaven, as King and Ruler, Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue to advance His kingdom. In today's lesson, we will glean some thoughts on the kingdom of God from Jesus' Great Commission.

1 | Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." **MATTHEW 28:18**

In Genesis, God gave authority to Adam and Eve by telling them to take dominion over all living creatures and over all the earth (Genesis 1:26). God's original design is to have all the earth under man, who is in turn under the authority of God. However, mankind gave this authority to Satan when they sinned (Luke 4:5-6). Since then, Satan has been called the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4), the *prince of the power of the air* (Ephesians 2:2), and the *ruler of this world* (John 12:31). In order to restore everything to its original state, God came as a man in Jesus Christ. On the cross, He defeated the enemy (Colossians 2:15). Prior to His ascension, He not only proclaimed the coming of the kingdom as before, but also declared that He is Ruler and King over all. Jesus uses kingdom language when He says that all authority, both in heaven and on earth, belongs to Him. Why do you think Jesus had to emphasize that He has **all** authority? Why do you think a king can't have partial or incomplete authority?

Though the Church is part of God's kingdom, they are not the same.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." **MATTHEW 28:18**

By saying that *all authority in heaven and on earth* belongs to Jesus, God shows that His kingdom and authority are not limited to the Church. His disciples and His Church are part of His kingdom and are the key agents in advancing and establishing His reign on earth. However, the idea of God's kingdom is distinct from the Church. Jesus was the first to apply the word "church" to His followers (Matthew 16:18), yet He framed His ministry in terms of God's kingdom breaking into our world, not into a church building (Mark 1:14–15). Why do you think the kingdom supersedes and is bigger than the Church? Why do believers commonly think these are synonymous?

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Jesus commissioned the Church to advance His kingdom by discipling the nations.

¹⁹*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Jesus' dominion is over all, whether people and institutions submit to Him or rebel against His authority. He commissioned His disciples not just to *make disciples* but to *make disciples of all nations*. "Nations" here means "people groups," not the political nations of today. As more people and people groups become Jesus' followers and come under His benevolent rule, the more God's kingdom will be experienced here on earth as it is in heaven. It will not just bring transformation in individual lives, but also to society. What might a disciplined nation look like?

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APPLICATION

- Do you believe that all authority belongs to Jesus Christ? How should this change your life and how you approach the world?
- What is your response to the Great Commission? Are you making disciples? What can you start doing to obey Jesus' command?
- Do you think it's possible for a nation to be discipled? If our nation were discipled, what do you think it would look like?

PRAYER

- Declare your trust and dependence on God, who has all authority. Pray that you will live a life of obedience to God.
- Pray that Jesus' followers all over the world will obey His command to go and make disciples of all nations.
- Pray for nations to be discipled and for the kingdom of God to forcefully advance.

2 Carrying Out the Great Commission

WARM-UP

- What activities consume most of your time during a typical week? Approximately how much time do you spend doing each?
- What would you rather do: stay home or travel? Why?
- What's one topic or skill you've taught others? Tell us about the experience. What did you enjoy about it?

WORD *¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

Jesus used kingdom language when He said that *all authority in heaven and on earth* had been given to Him. He is King, and He now has authority over the whole earth. However, not everyone has submitted to His benevolent rule yet, so He commanded His followers to advance His kingdom by making disciples of all nations (people groups). The command, also known as the Great Commission, has three action words that need to be carried out: go, baptize, and teach. Today, we will look at how we can obey Jesus' commandment to make disciples of all nations.

1 | Go.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . ."

MATTHEW 28:19

In the original language, this phrase has two nuances. The first is to deliberately go out of your way in order to make disciples of all nations. It is about leaving one's location in order to go to other nations or people groups to make disciples. However, this phrase can also mean "as you go." This means that as we go about our business, doing what we are called to do, we can already help others follow Jesus. In all that we do, we are to naturally live and speak of Jesus and what it means to follow Him. So, whether we are simply going about our lives or going to the nations, we are called to *go and make disciples*. How did you start making disciples? Share of a time when you made disciples by going to another nation or in the course of your daily life.

2 | Baptize.

". . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." **MATTHEW 28:19**

The word "baptize" means "to immerse." Aside from the actual immersion of a person in water, it can also mean to be immersed in the life of God. As followers of Christ, we are to live in commitment to and alignment with His will and ways and lead others to do the same. Ultimately, this will be seen in a life characterized by repentance, faith, and obedience. Share about how you got baptized in water and

in the Holy Spirit. Why is baptism a public declaration of our faith in Christ (Romans 6:3–4; 1 Peter 3:20–21)?

3 | Teach.

“... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

MATTHEW 28:20

We are told to intentionally teach others to observe all that Jesus passed on to His disciples. Teaching others will lead to a life characterized by helping others follow Jesus. We are not only to be followers of Christ, but we are to be a people who help **others** follow Christ. Furthermore, what Jesus taught spans all aspects of life, not merely the spiritual aspect. Therefore, we are to teach people to follow Christ and experience His kingdom in all aspects of life, including marriage, family, relationships, work, finances, thoughts, and emotions. How did Jesus cap off His last words to the disciples? What assurance did He give them (Matthew 28:20)?

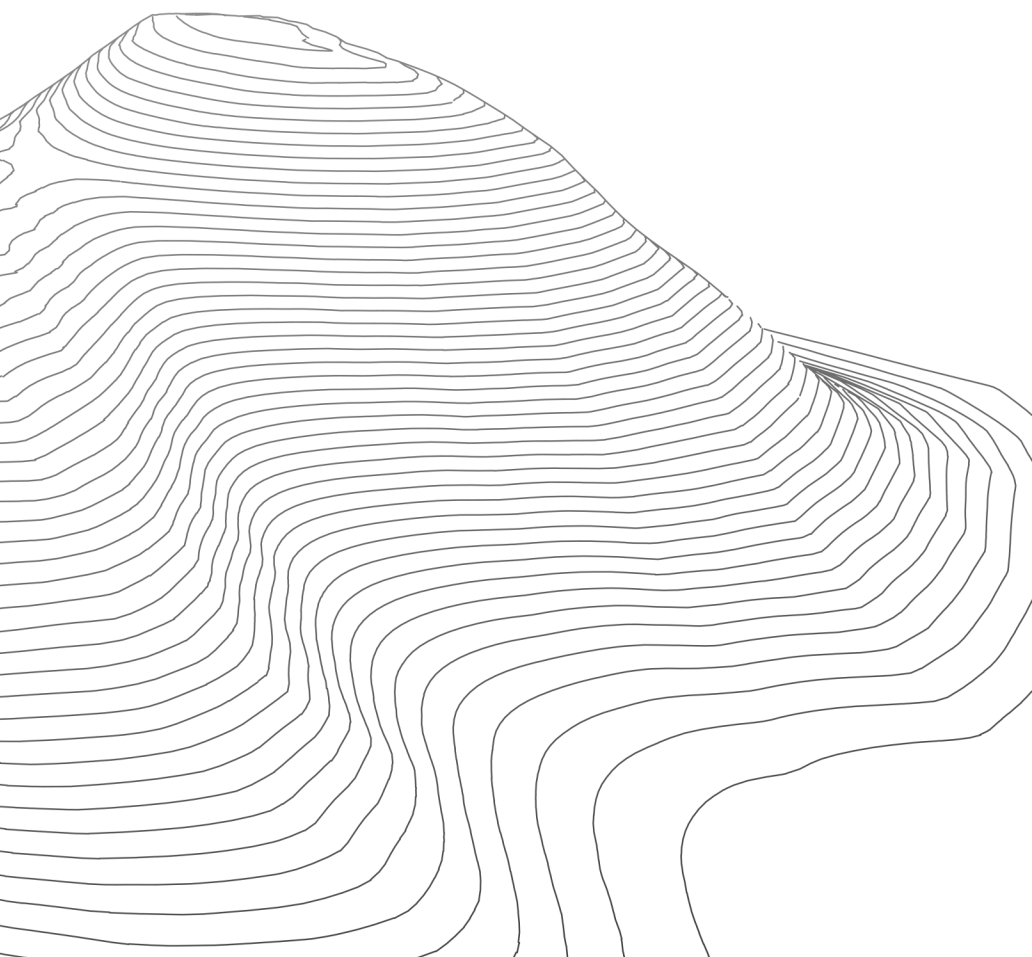
APPLICATION

- Have you begun to obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples? What steps can you take to be more effective in this?
- Immersion in God is being aligned to His ways. What are some things you can start doing today to align yourself further to God's ways?
- How should Jesus' last words affect how you live every day? What will you do to carry out and obey the Great Commission?

PRAYER

- Thank God for saving you and giving you the opportunity to join Him in advancing His kingdom.
- Ask God to reveal more of Himself to you so that you can be further aligned to His ways and will. Pray that you will clearly hear and properly respond to His voice.
- Pray for the Church to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations.

Kingdom Parables



3 The Parable of the Sower

WARM-UP

- Do you think you have a green thumb? Why or why not?
- How do you usually respond when someone pays you a compliment?
- Share to the group good news that you recently received. How did you respond to it?

WORD *¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."* **MATTHEW 13:1-8**

(Read also **MATTHEW 13:18-23.**)

The kingdom of God, also known as the kingdom of heaven, refers to the realm or sphere in which God rules as King. It is not limited to God's rule in heaven, but also includes the kingdom of God on earth, where Jesus reigns as King. Jesus told many parables to describe the kingdom of heaven. His first parable on the kingdom, the parable of the sower, was meant to provoke His listeners to think about how they would respond to the message of the kingdom of heaven. The imagery was that of a

sower sowing seeds which fell on different kinds of soil. The types of soil represented different kinds of people according to how they responded to the message of the kingdom. As we study this parable, we too should consider how to respond to the truth we will encounter.

1 | The Path

18"Hear then the parable of the sower: 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path." **MATTHEW 13:18-19**

A path is actually made up of tightly packed soil and rocks. The path in the parable represents people who hear the message about the kingdom but do not understand it. The message is not received, and *the evil one snatches away* the seed that was sown. Why do you think the seed on the path was snatched away so quickly?

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2 | Rocky Ground

20"As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away." **MATTHEW 13:20-21**

The rocky ground represents people who immediately receive the message with joy, yet the message does not take root in their hearts. They endure in faith and kingdom living, but only *for a while*. Sadly, they fall away when they

experience trials and persecution. How do tribulation and persecution test our faith? What are some ways your faith has been tested?

3 | Thorny Ground

"As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful." **MATTHEW 13:22**

The thorny ground represents those who hear the word but are too consumed with the worries, anxious concerns, and wealth of the world. As a result, the seed that was sown cannot grow. How do thorns work? What are some cares of the world that might choke the word?

4 | Good Soil

"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." **MATTHEW 13:23**

The good soil represents people who hear the word of the kingdom and understand it. The word bears fruit in their lives. And though the amount of fruit varies, one thing is

clear: The word brings transformation, not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of other people. What do you think good soil looks like? How do you think we can become good soil for the word of God to grow and bear fruit in our lives?

APPLICATION

- What kind of soil do you believe you are? By God's grace, what are some ways that you can be good soil?
- This week, meditate on the parable of the sower and the different types of soil. Ask God to show you how your life can be an expression of His kingdom to others. Commit to applying what the Holy Spirit reveals to you.
- Christ paid a great price to make a way for people to enter His kingdom. What are you willing to sacrifice or do differently in order to help advance God's kingdom in your nation?

PRAYER

- Thank God that He is King and Ruler over all. Thank Him for giving you the opportunity to sow the seeds of the kingdom in the lives of others.
- Pray that you will grow in your understanding of how the kingdom works, be good soil, and bear much fruit. Pray for His grace to change what is necessary for the word of God to bear fruit in your life.
- Pray for God's grace to keep sowing His word to others, even if you don't know how they will receive it. Trust that the word will never return void. Pray for the word of God to fall on good soil among your family and friends who don't know Him yet.

4 The Parable of the Weeds

WARM-UP

- Tell us about an experience you have had with planting or gardening. Which part did you like most? Which part did you like least?
- Recall a time you were given a deadline you did not expect. How did you respond? Did you finish the project on time?
- Share about a time when you or your family members experienced injustice. How did you feel? How did you respond?

WORD *He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field . . ."* **MATTHEW 13:24**

(Read also **MATTHEW 13:25-30, 36-43.**)

All of us have seen evil in the lives of people, in society, and in the world. We have also likely seen injustice take place, where evil is not punished or put in check. There is so much corruption in the lives of people and also in different spheres of society. Why is this so? Many get discouraged and lose hope because evil is so prevalent in society. However, in the midst of this darkness, we also witness a lot of good, which people desire to see more and more. Sadly, righteousness in society is not always rewarded and those who live their lives reflecting God's righteousness are even persecuted. Why does God not bring immediate judgment on wickedness? Can we ever hope to see the righteousness, peace, and joy of God's kingdom prevail (Romans 14:17)? Will corruption always continue unchecked? As we study Jesus' parable of the weeds, we will find the answers to these questions.

1 | Good and evil are sown into the world.

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away."

MATTHEW 13:24-25

King Jesus is the one who sows *good seed* into the field, which refers to the world. That good seed is the sons or heirs of the kingdom, His people. However, the enemy, the devil, sows evil into the world. This is evident in law breakers and all causes of sin. This is the reality of things. God is not the direct source of everything in this world: He is the source of all that is good, while the devil is the source of all that is evil. How does this truth affect how you see yourself, society, and the world?

2 | God is waiting for the good seed to grow and mature.

"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.""

MATTHEW 13:30

The purpose of sowing seeds is for them to grow, mature, and be fruitful. Jesus does not yet usher in the final judgment because He still wants His children, the fruit of the kingdom, to grow, mature, and multiply. Waiting for the end of the age before judging evil and sin is necessary because He wants more sinners to repent, be saved, and

become His sons and daughters. Those who turn to Christ will be sown into the world to reach out to more people and advance His kingdom. What is your response to knowing that God has given you an opportunity to come into His kingdom before the final judgment? As seeds sown into the world, what are we to do while the end of the age and the final judgment have not yet come?

3 | There will be a harvest at the end of the age.

⁴⁰“Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age . . . ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” **MATTHEW 13:40, 43**

Harvest time symbolizes the end of the age, when the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the evil one will be separated from each other for the final judgment. At this time, ultimate justice will be experienced. No one will escape. Furthermore, all the causes of sin and evil will be eradicated. On the other hand, those who have received the forgiveness of their sins and the righteousness of God in Christ will prevail. The kingdom of God will be fully consummated and Christ will reign with righteousness, peace, and joy among the nations (Revelation 11:15). In light of this truth, what should we do to make disciples of all nations?

APPLICATION

- What does it mean to be a child of the kingdom of God? What are some practical ways you can let your light shine through the darkness in this age (in your family, school, workplace, society)?
- How do the truths revealed in the parable affect your perspective on evil and injustice in the world? How will this change the way you preach the gospel to those who don't know Christ yet?
- What do you believe are appropriate responses to these truths and what can you do this week to put them into practice?

PRAYER

- Thank God for being the source of good in the world. Thank Him for His love as He desires more people to repent, be saved, and come into His kingdom.
- Ask God for a biblical perspective of the world and to live in light of His truth. Pray that you will be transformed daily by the renewing of your mind.
- Pray to be in tune with God as you live on earth. Pray for your friends and family who do not yet know God to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

5 The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Leaven

WARM-UP

- Do you have a favorite flower, fruit, vegetable, or any other plant? Why is it your favorite?
- What benefits of a plant or tree do you like the most?
- Have you ever tried baking or would you ever consider trying it? Why or why not?

WORD ³¹He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” **MATTHEW 13:31-33**

A lot of Jews and Christians in the first century were greatly longing for the kingdom of God to come. They were waiting for the promised Messiah to establish God’s rule on earth so that everything would be transformed. They were longing for a better world. However, their understanding of how the kingdom of God would be established was wrong. The Jews thought that it would come quickly, with the Messiah defeating all worldly powers oppressing them. The Christians knew that it was through preaching the gospel that they would see the lives of people and society changed. However, they thought that it would be in their lifetime. Thus, when they failed to see this happen in their day, especially when persecution increased, many were discouraged. Even today, many Christians are discouraged when they continue to see evil and corruption in society and in the lives of people.

Some become unsure of the significance of what they are doing in advancing God's kingdom. Others resort to other means because they want to see immediate change. Today, as we study two of Jesus' parables, we hope that we will be enlightened as to the nature of the kingdom's growth and encouraged with its surety.

1 | The kingdom of heaven at first seems insignificant.

³¹He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

MATTHEW 13:31-32

The first parable likens the kingdom of heaven to *a grain of mustard seed*, which was the smallest known seed at that time. The second parable likens the kingdom to leaven, which we call baker's yeast today. It is used in small amounts compared to the other ingredients for bread. In the same way, the kingdom may seem insignificant at first. When Jesus inaugurated the kingdom, He started with a handful of disciples. In many nations, true disciples are the minority. However, we should not be discouraged, because it is the nature of things as we reach out to a fallen world. The good news is that the kingdom is advancing and growing. How long does it take a seed to germinate? Why does a farmer not give up even when he doesn't see growth right away?

The kingdom of heaven grows gradually and often imperceptibly.

³²"It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."³³He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." **MATTHEW 13:32-33**

Many Christians get discouraged when they do not see noticeable changes in the lives of people and in different spheres of society. As a result, there are those who turn to more humanistic approaches like legalism and revolution because they believe that it would result in faster transformation. However, Jesus described the growth of the kingdom as akin to the growth of the mustard tree and the leavening of dough with yeast. These are not easily seen and may take a long time. But the truth is, changes are indeed happening. The growth may be one person at a time or even one decision to follow God at a time. Though imperceptible, these changes are significant and powerful and they compound over time. The kingdom of God is unstoppable, the way a seed can grow even through undesirable circumstances (e.g., through a space in concrete). Recall a time when you persevered in sowing seeds of the gospel. Why did you not give up? What results are you hoping to see?

The kingdom of heaven will ultimately grow greatly in size and impact.

³²"It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."³³He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." **MATTHEW 13:32-33**

Though the mustard seed starts out small and its growth is slow and imperceptible, it later grows to be a tall tree that benefits people and wildlife. The same is true for the leaven. Though only a small amount is used compared to the other ingredients in making bread, it eventually permeates the whole batch of dough and makes it rise, radically transforming its texture, softness, and flavor. In the same way, as the gospel is preached and believed in by more and more people, the kingdom of God will in time greatly transform families, communities, and spheres of society. How long does it take for a seed to become a fully grown tree? Why do you think Jesus used this parable to explain the kingdom of God to His disciples?

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APPLICATION

- How do you think these truths about the kingdom of God will affect how you view your personal growth, making disciples, and advancing God's kingdom in different spheres of society?
- Are there people in your family, school, or workplace that you almost feel like giving up on? How can you apply the truths revealed in the parables to your situation?
- Whether big or small, what are some things you can do to advance God's kingdom where you are?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His kingdom that is imperceptibly but surely spreading through the lives of people and in different spheres of society.
- Pray to understand the nature of the kingdom's growth. Pray to be assured daily, in spite of a fallen world, that it is growing.
- Pray for the grace to remember that it is God, not you, who causes the growth of the kingdom. Pray to constantly submit to His sovereignty and timing.

6 The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

WARM-UP

- What is your most valuable (not necessarily most expensive) purchase?
- What is one thing you have given up for love?
- Which of our nation's resources do you think is of greatest value? Why?

WORD *⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." **MATTHEW 13:44-46***

Two of the parables that Jesus told about the kingdom of heaven were the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great value. The kingdom of God, or the "kingdom of heaven," includes God's rule in heaven and earth, where Jesus reigns as King. In these parables, He gives both a picture of the value of the kingdom and what His kingdom values.

1 | The kingdom of heaven is of great value.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." **MATTHEW 13:44**

The parable likens the kingdom of heaven to hidden treasure that a man found. It was of so much value that it was worth giving up all that he had to acquire it. Having King Jesus reign in the lives of people and in different spheres of life is of immensely great value. His ways are infinitely better than the corrupt systems of this world. Imagine what the lives of people, our society, and our nation would be like if Jesus was recognized and followed as King. Imagine how it will look when there are a lot of people whose lives have been transformed by God. Why do you think it is worth our everything to see His kingdom come and advance on earth just as it already is in heaven?

2 | The kingdom of heaven greatly values us.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." **MATTHEW 13:45-46**

If the previous parable shows the value of God's kingdom, the parable of the pearl of great value is a picture of how God values us. God sees such value in people that He gave up His own Son, Jesus Christ, to purchase and save us (John 3:16). People are considered God's inheritance (Ephesians 1:18). What does this tell us about God's heart for the people in our nation and in the nations? How will

this truth affect your attitude toward people and how you reach out to them?

APPLICATION

- Why do you think Jesus used these parables to describe the kingdom? How much does He value you, and how should this affect how you live?
- What are some practical ways you can show others the value of God's kingdom? Which of these can you immediately do this week?
- In view of the value of God's kingdom and the sacrifice Christ paid to make a way for people to enter His kingdom, what are you willing to sacrifice in order to help advance God's kingdom in our nation? What are you willing to change so your life will be an expression of God's kingdom?

PRAYER

- Ask God to reveal to you the true nature and worth of His kingdom. Pray that the way you live will reflect your true worth in Christ.
- Thank God for His great love for people and the nations, that He would give His Son for us. Pray that this truth would touch many hearts and cause people to turn to Him.
- Pray for God's grace to do your part in advancing His kingdom in your nation.

7 The Parable of the Net

WARM-UP

- Are you choosy with the types of food that you like to eat? How so?
- Are you the type of person who organizes your things, or the kind who knows where everything is even in the chaos? Share an instance explaining this.
- How do your first impressions of people affect the way you interact with them? Tell about a time your first impression of someone turned out to be incorrect.

WORD ⁴⁷*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* **MATTHEW 13:47-50**

The kingdom of heaven is the dominion where God rules and reigns, of which the Church is a small part. The kingdom plan of God, to redeem His children and creation to Himself, is being fulfilled here and now, even as we live on the earth. Part of the mission of the Church is to usher in this kingdom. While He was on earth, Jesus told many parables that we can use to understand the kingdom of heaven. What does the parable of the net tell us about the kingdom of God?

1 | We are to preach the gospel regardless of who receives it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind." **MATTHEW 13:47**

The net, representing the preaching of the gospel, *gathered fish of every kind*. It is not our role to choose the fish we attract. In the same way, it is not our role to prejudge those whom we preach the gospel to (Romans 1:14–16). How have you embraced the calling to preach the gospel? Have you experienced preaching the gospel to people you don't like?

2 | There is a coming judgment.

⁴⁸"When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

MATTHEW 13:48–50

The picture that Jesus painted at the end of this parable was of the coming judgment (Revelation 20:11–15). The men who sorted the fish into good or bad represent the angels that will separate the evil from the righteous at the end of the age. Those who have sinned and not put their faith in King Jesus for their forgiveness are considered *evil*.

The *righteous*, on the other hand, are sinners who have responded to the gospel and put their trust in Jesus to forgive them of all of their sins and give them right standing before God. God is the final judge. He knows those who are really His. How does knowing that there is a coming judgment change the way you preach the gospel?

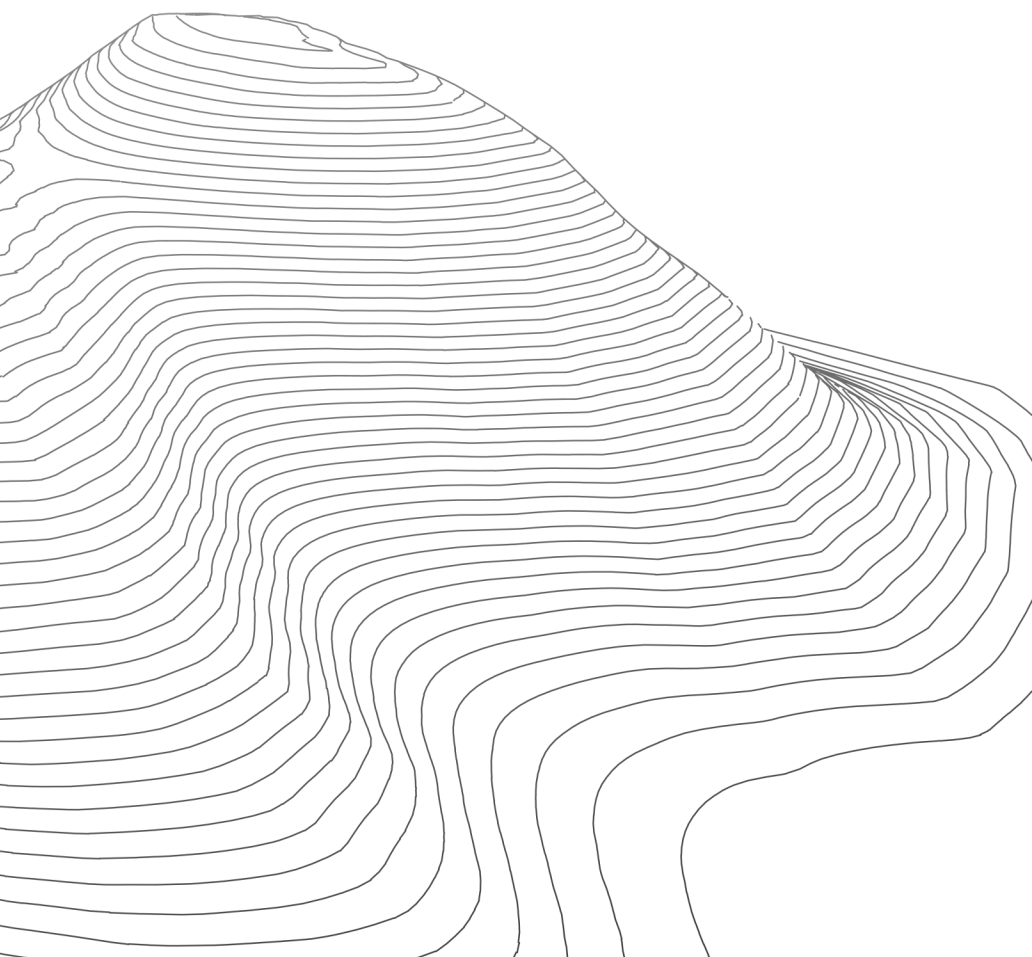
APPLICATION

- Every “fisher of men” first made the decision to follow Jesus. If you would like to make this decision, ask someone to pray with you.
- What are some ways you can preach the gospel without prejudging people? Pray that you would have God’s heart as you reach out to people for the kingdom.
- Ask God for two or three people that you can reach out and preach the gospel to. How can you build a relationship with them?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His calling to fish for men. Pray for His grace to willingly embrace and continue this calling.
- Ask God for the strength to speak to all equally of the kingdom of heaven, without judgment.
- Pray that the hearts of those in your family and community will be open to receiving the message of the kingdom of heaven. Pray for them to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Upside-Down Kingdom



8 Seek First

WARM-UP

- Tell us about one of your passions. What do you do to pursue this passion?
- Do you consider yourself as someone who has a tendency to worry? Why or why not?
- Share a time when you had to make a difficult choice. What happened?

WORD ²⁴*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? . . . ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* **MATTHEW 6:24-25, 33**

(Read also **MATTHEW 6:26-32, 34.**)

The kingdom of God is described by biblical scholars and theologians as an "upside-down kingdom." This is because the mindset and the ways of the kingdom of God are so different and often even opposite from the mindset and ways of the world. The kingdom is radical and countercultural. We will look at these differences for our minds and hearts to be aligned with God's kingdom, so that we will know the life God wants us to experience.

1 | We cannot serve both God and money.

²⁴"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. ²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

MATTHEW 6:24-25

The ways of this world prioritize the pursuit of wealth above all, whether it is to meet one's basic needs or to gain power and control. King Jesus said that this is incompatible with serving and loving God. It is not that God is anti-money or anti-wealth. What is incompatible with His kingdom is letting the pursuit of wealth control and guide our way of thinking and our way of life. In pursuing money, we will often be faced with decisions that go against God's will. In pursuing God, we will often be faced with decisions that go against personal gain. We need to make a choice as to whom we serve, because we can't serve both. What are some ways the kingdom of God and the pursuit of money clash?

We should not be overly anxious about worldly things.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" **MATTHEW 6:25**

Jesus told His disciples not to be anxious about their basic needs like food, drink, and clothing. He did not say not to think about these things. What He meant was that we should not be overly concerned about seeking these to the point that we are anxious, fearful, and worried. He also tells us why we should not do so:

- life is so much more than these
- worrying does not add to life
- we are very valuable to God and He already knows our needs
- worrying is what unbelievers do

God does not want us to merely exist. Rather, He wants us to experience the fullness of life that He has for us (John 10:10). Therefore, worrying about our needs being met and seeking after those things does not add to life; it actually takes away from it. Why is worrying or being overly anxious useless (Matthew 6:27)?

We should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **MATTHEW 6:33**

Instead of being overly anxious about worldly things, King Jesus tells us to first pursue God's kingdom and right standing before Him. These are both found and experienced through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way and door into God's kingdom (John 14:6; 10:7-9). Faith in Him is how we receive God's righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus is also the way for us to experience the blessings of God's kingdom here in this life and for eternity. As we seek to have right standing before God and advance His kingdom here on earth, Jesus promised that God will meet our other earthly needs as well. What is the importance of the word "first"? Why should we seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness?

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APPLICATION

- How might your priorities in life need to be adjusted? Do you want to stop pursuing worldly wealth and start seeking God first? Ask someone to pray with you as you put your faith in Jesus Christ.
- What do you usually worry or feel overly anxious about? What can you do this week to fix your eyes on Jesus?
- In what area of your life would you like to experience God's kingdom and way of life more? What can you do to entrust this to Him and obey Him this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the fullness of life He provides us, and that you don't have to worry about your basic needs being met.
- Ask God for the grace to seek Him first all the time, no matter where the world leads you. Pray to be reminded daily of what truly matters: pursuing God's kingdom and having right standing before Him.
- Pray that your life would be an example of what it means to seek God first. Pray for your family and friends who don't know Christ yet to put their trust in Him.

9 Die to Yourself to Find Life

WARM-UP

- Recall a time when you thought about doing something, but it turned out to be a bad idea. What happened?
- Do you prefer to pay for something cheap that only lasts a short time or buy things that are more expensive but last so much longer? Why?
- Have you ever won a prize that was useless to you? Tell us about the experience and how you felt.

WORD *²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.”*

MATTHEW 16:24–27

(Read also **MATTHEW 16:21–23**.)

The kingdom of God is known as an “upside-down kingdom” because the mindset and the ways of the kingdom are often opposite from the world’s. Today, we will look at the contrasting mindsets of the kingdom and the world when it comes to gaining life. For the world, the mindset is to accumulate wealth and put oneself first. We can see this in popular statements like:

- Do what makes you happy
- Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all
- Be true to yourself

- Follow your heart
- Be proud of yourself
- You have to think about yourself first

These are worldly values that are pushed forward in a lot of media. However, the mindset, ways, and values of the kingdom of God are often the exact opposite.

1 | We deny and die to ourselves to follow Christ.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24

"Expressive individualism" is a worldly value that views the highest good as individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression. However, Jesus teaches that to be His disciples in His kingdom, we ought to deny and die to ourselves. This means that we are to let go of our own personal agenda, desires, and ideas of life and meaning for His. It is a life of self-sacrifice, not self-service. We live with Christ at the center, not ourselves. This is the exact opposite of how we would naturally live. What choices have you made that meant dying to yourself?

2 | We embrace the life God has for us.

²⁵“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” **MATTHEW 16:25–26**

The word “soul” in the context of verse 26 has a broader meaning than simply the immaterial part of our beings. It also refers to the life that God wants us to experience in His kingdom, both in the present age and for eternity. Jesus is saying that those who choose to save and hold on to their own idea of life, which reflects that of the world, will lose the kind of life that God wants them to have in His kingdom. It is futile to gain everything the world desires here on earth just to miss out on the quality of life God wants us to have. If we let go of our own worldly idea of life and pursue God, we will find what true life is all about—both in this world and in eternity with God. Why do you think the idea of losing your life is so scary, and why does Jesus ask us to do it anyway?

3 | We live in light of eternity, not temporal gain.

²⁶“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.” **MATTHEW 16:26-27**

People with a kingdom mindset know that this earthly life is not the end. They don't just make decisions and live for the here-and-now; they understand that a judgment is coming which will determine our eternal condition and destiny. On the other hand, those who have sought the things of this world and their own selves will be judged and miss out on eternal life. According to Ephesians 2:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17, what happens when we put our faith in Christ?

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APPLICATION

- Is there a thought, attitude, or behavior God is showing you that you need to die to? What are you willing to do about it?
- In light of eternity, how should you live every day differently? Take time this week to pray and ask God for an eternal perspective.
- Think of a family member or friend who needs to embrace the life God has for him or her and live in light of eternity. What can you do to reach out to him or her this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the gift of eternal life that He has offered to all. Thank Him for the opportunity to experience His kingdom on earth.
- Ask God for the grace to deny and die to yourself each day by surrendering your own will and agenda to Him. Pray that you will make wise decisions that reflect His kingdom on earth and live life in light of eternity.
- Pray for family and friends who have not yet surrendered their lives to Christ to experience the full life He has for them.

10 The Greatest Commandment

WARM-UP

- What are the most memorable ways your family members have expressed their love for you?
- What are some things you have sacrificed for the sake of your loved ones?
- Share some things that you do to relax and take care of yourself.

WORD ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”
³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment.
³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” **MATTHEW 22:36-40**

(Read also **ROMANS 13:8-10.**)

The ways and values of the kingdom of God are so different from the ways and values of this world that it is often called an “upside-down kingdom.” In the nations of the world, people are governed externally by thousands of laws that cover many areas of life. However, in the kingdom of God there is simplicity. There is only one commandment or law that covers all areas of life and all other laws: the commandment to love. This is not a law externally imposed on us, but a law that God writes on the hearts of all believers (Jeremiah 31:33). Jesus said that all of the Law and the Prophets depend on this. The apostle Paul also teaches that love actually fulfills the whole Law (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8-10).

1 | The greatest commandment is to love God with all of our being.

³⁷"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment." **MATTHEW 22:37-38**

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all our being: heart, soul, and mind. This means loving God with not just our emotions and passions, or our mind and thoughts. We are to love Him with everything we have and the very life that is in us. Mark 12:30 also includes loving God *with all your strength*. This includes both physical strength and inner strength. How can we love God with our minds? Our strength? Everything we have?

2 | The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor.

"And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
MATTHEW 22:39

The second greatest commandment is like the first one because it is also about love. We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. How do we love ourselves? We probably don't feel like loving ourselves all the time, but do it anyway. We love ourselves by taking care of our needs and paying attention to our wants. In the same way, loving others is not about having strong feelings for them. It is about putting them first and treating them the way we would like to be

treated. How have you learned to love others even when you don't feel like it?

3 | **King Jesus' new commandment is to love one another just as He has loved us.**

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." **JOHN 15:12**

We are commanded by Christ not just to love others as we love ourselves, but also to love others as He loves us. This is a tall order. He humbled Himself and stooped down to our level when He became man. Not only did He sacrifice Himself on the cross for us and pay the price for our sins, He shows us His love, mercy, and grace every day. And yet we are called to love others this way. This was probably as mind-boggling for the disciples then as it is to us now. Such love is only possible if we have first received His love, experienced it, and relied on it. What does 1 John 4:10, 19 tell us about how we can grow in our love for God and for others?

APPLICATION

- How can you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength every day?
- Think of one person that's difficult to love. How can you love him or her as you love yourself? How can you go one step further and love him or her as Christ loves you?
- Meditate on Matthew 22:37–39 this week. Ask God to reveal to you truths about Himself, you, and others.

PRAYER

- Thank God for His unconditional and unfailing love for you. Declare your love and devotion to Him.
- Pray that God will strengthen and enable you to love others as He loves you.
- Pray for the Church to exemplify this great and first commandment to the world. Pray that we would love others as we have been loved.

11 Love Your Enemies

WARM-UP

- What are some things you do to show others you love them?
- What do people do for you that makes you feel most loved?
- Do you consider yourself vocal in expressing your feelings to others? Why or why not?

WORD *²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. . . .³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.
³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”*

LUKE 6:27–28, 35–36

(Read also **LUKE 6:29–34.**)

God’s “upside-down kingdom” is so radical because it is counter-intuitive and countercultural to a lot of the mindsets and ways of the world. Today, we will look at one of the most difficult teachings of Jesus, one that goes against the grain of almost all people: “*Love your enemies.*” This teaching is probably at the core of the nature of God’s kingdom, because He Himself is love (1 John 4:16). What does loving your enemies look like?

1 | We are to view and treat our enemies with love.

27“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, *28* bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” **LUKE 6:27-28**

Hating one's enemies is normal for the world. However, in God's kingdom, King Jesus commands us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. Most people find this impossible because they relegate love to a mere emotion. However, the command to love your enemies is primarily a decision to treat and love others as you love yourself (Luke 10:27). Jesus gave examples of what this looks like: Doing good to those who hate us, blessing them, and praying for them. We love ourselves even when we don't feel like it. The way we love ourselves and want to be treated by others is the same way we should express our love for our enemies. Recall a time when you prayed for someone you considered an enemy. How did praying for him or her change your heart?

2 | We are to do good to the needy without expecting anything in return.

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return . . .” **LUKE 6:35**

One of the common mindsets in the world is to ask “What's in it for me?” In Filipino culture, the concept of *utang na loob* is having a “debt of gratitude” with an unspoken expectation of having to return the favor in the future. But King Jesus said that we are to do good and even lend to those who

are needy without expecting anything in return. Of course, we don't have to give them everything they need. Wisdom should still be exercised when deciding how to help. Whatever we give, we do not expect anything in return. Why do you think giving to the poor means lending to the Lord (Proverbs 19:17)?

3

When we love our enemies, we reflect our heavenly Father.

³⁵“ . . . your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” **LUKE 6:35-36**

As God's children, we love as He does. *He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.* Romans 5:8 says, *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* We ourselves are recipients of His love, kindness, and mercy. When we show this love, kindness, and mercy to others, especially to our enemies, those who cannot pay us back, and the ungrateful, we reflect who God is to them and to everyone around us. How do you reflect your parents' or guardians' values? How are we to reflect the Father now that we are His children?

APPLICATION

- Are there needy people around you to whom you can show kindness? How can you show them God's mercy and kindness?
- Are there people who consider you their enemy? Are there people who hate or dislike you? Aside from praying for them, how else can you show kindness and love to them this week?
- Are there people who offended you that you need to forgive? Forgive them as the Lord forgave you. What are some things that you can do to try to be reconciled with them?

PRAYER

- Thank God that though we were His enemies, He loved us anyway and paid the price for our salvation. Thank Him for His love and mercy.
- Ask God for His grace to be generous and kind to the needy without expecting anything in return.
- Pray that you would do good to your enemies and reflect Christ's love to them.

12 Leadership Is Servanthood

WARM-UP

- What qualities do you look for in a leader? Why?
- Name a leader whom you admire. Why do you look up to him or her?
- Share about a time when you felt inadequate as a leader.

WORD *⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

MARK 10:42–45

(Read also **MARK 10:35–41**.)

The ways and values of the kingdom of God are so different from the ways and values of this world that it is often called an “upside-down kingdom.” This applies even to the area of leadership. The word “leader” in the New Testament rarely refers to Jesus or His disciples. It usually refers to worldly leaders and Jewish leaders. Could it be because leadership in the kingdom of God is so different from how the world defines it? Today, we will look at greatness and leadership in the kingdom of God.

Leadership in God's kingdom does not compel people to follow based on position.

⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you . . ." MARK 10:42-43

Jesus pointed out that worldly leaders practiced leadership by using their position or authority to compel people to follow them. Today, this is what it would look like:

- I'm your boss. Obey me or you're fired.
- I'm your parent and you're my child. Follow my instructions with no questions asked.
- I'm your husband and the head of this household. You should submit to all my wishes.

On the other hand, Jesus said that leadership in His kingdom is not about using position or authority for people to get their way. How did Jesus exemplify leadership? Why do you think the world's perspective of leadership is so different from His?

2 Leadership in God's kingdom is exercised through service.

⁴³"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,
⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all."

MARK 10:43-44

Instead of leading through domination, Jesus says that those who want to be leaders in His kingdom should serve. We lead not by shoving ourselves forward, but by putting others first. We lead not by seeking a title or position, but by taking on the responsibility to serve others. Because leadership is really about serving others, we do not need titles and positions in order to lead in God's kingdom. What does it mean to be a *slave of all*? Why do you think Jesus asked those who would be great to serve and be a slave of all?

3 Leadership in God's kingdom is motivated by service and giving of oneself.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **MARK 10:45**

World leaders today see the advantages of servant leadership in getting people to follow them. There are a lot of self-help, management, and business books on servant leadership. But there is still a big difference between how the world practices servant leadership and servant leadership in the kingdom of God. While the world sees serving others as a means to achieve these goals of leading, Jesus said that the motivation behind servant leadership

is simply to serve, not to become great. Jesus Himself did not come to be served but to serve. As Lord and Christ, He could have used His position and power to compel people to serve Him. But He even washed His disciples' feet and died on the cross for us. His only goal was to serve. Service is not the means to leadership; it is both the motivation and the goal. Recall a time when you were led by someone who exemplified the world's model of leadership. How do you think it would have been different if he or she were motivated by service?

APPLICATION

- How can you exemplify leadership, whether or not you have a position to go with it? What's one thing you will start doing differently this week?
- What sacrifices are you willing to make in order to serve others better? How will the kingdom mindset on leadership affect how you view difficult people among those you are leading?
- Commit to pray for our nation's leaders this week. Ask God for wisdom on how to pray for them. Believe Him for godly leaders and righteousness in our nation.

PRAYER

- Thank God for how Jesus set an example of servant leadership and served the world.
- Ask God for the heart to serve and lead the way He wants you to.
- Pray for our nation's leaders to be motivated by service. Pray that they will use their position and authority to do good and lead with integrity.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

Kingdom & Discipleship

is a twelve-lesson material designed for small group discipleship that gives a biblical understanding of the kingdom of God, examines the different parables which Jesus told to describe the kingdom of God, and shows the reality of the upside-down kingdom. Our goal is to advance God's kingdom by discipling a nation, wherever we are and in whatever we are called to do.

TOPICS

- Advancing God's Kingdom through Discipleship
- Carrying Out the Great Commission

KINGDOM PARABLES

- The Parable of the Sower
- The Parable of the Weeds
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Leaven
- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value
- The Parable of the Net

THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM

- Seek First
- Die to Yourself to Find Life
- The Greatest Commandment
- Love Your Enemies
- Leadership Is Servanthood



EVERY NATION
PRODUCTIONS