Sermon Discussion Questions

Series: Hope Fulfilled **Date**: 11/01/2026

The Kingdom of Jesus is a Subversive Kingdom

Luke 13:18-35

1. The Kingdom Begins Small: In Luke 13:18–21, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed and leaven. What do these illustrations teach us about how God's Kingdom works and the impact of seemingly small things?

2. God Uses Ordinary People: The book of Acts shows God using ordinary, imperfect people to accomplish extraordinary things. Why do we sometimes overlook the importance of small acts of faithfulness, obedience, kindness, and love?

3. Where We Place Our Hope: The sermon challenges the celebrity culture and political focus of the American church. How can we guard against placing our hope in influential people, political outcomes, or worldly power rather than in God's Kingdom?

4. The Kingdom Demands a Response: In Luke 13:22–30, Jesus shifts the focus from how many will enter the Kingdom to whether we ourselves will enter. What does Jesus mean by striving to enter through the narrow door, and why is familiarity with Jesus not the same as genuine faith and obedience?

5. The True King: In Luke 13:31–35, Jesus demonstrates that His Kingdom is not controlled by political power but revealed through God's purposes and His love for His people. What do Jesus' response to Herod and His sorrow over Jerusalem teach us about the character of His Kingdom?

Application: Living as Kingdom People: What is one small, intentional way you can demonstrate the love of Christ this week—in your family, church, workplace, or community—and how can our group encourage one another to live with greater hope and trust in Jesus rather than in the things of this world?

Interpretation / Application Questions

Interpretation

1. What does this passage teach us about God? God is the main character of the Bible, so he should be our starting point. Every passage of Scripture reveals something about God, even if he's not specifically mentioned.

2. What does this passage teach us about people? As the pinnacle of God's creation, humans are at the center of his purposes. Think through what the passage reveals about our identity as divine image-bearers.

3. What does this passage teach us about how to relate to God? Loving God with our whole being expresses itself in a variety of ways. Start by looking for reasons to praise God.

4. What does this passage teach us about how to relate to others? God created us to be in community with one another. When he saves us from our sins, he makes us part of the body of Christ. Start by considering what the passage shows about interacting with others—family, friends, roommates, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, fellow believers, non-Christians, etc.

Application

1. What does God want us to understand/think? God has given us the mind of Christ, but we are still tempted to think the way we did before we knew Christ. Deep and lasting transformation begins with the renewal of our minds. Reflect on any wrong ways of thinking that the passage exposes.

2. What does God want us to believe? We may understand a truth at an intellectual level without letting it shape how we live. Consider what false beliefs the passage reveals and what gospel promises you need to believe.

3. What does God want us to desire? This question targets the affections—the combination of desires, inclinations, feelings, and will that are the spring of our actions. God calls us to desire him above all else, but apart from the work of the gospel we will desire what's evil. Reflect on how you see the sinful desires mentioned or implied in the passage show up in your own life, as well as the kind of godly desires you should be cultivating.

4. What does God want us to do? When God's Word changes how we think, what we functionally believe, and what we desire, it will produce tangible change in what we do and don't do. Sometimes a passage gives us direct commands. But many are far less straightforward, requiring us to think carefully about specific actions.