

“The Kingdom is Here”

June 27-28 | Pastor Chad Bohi

INTRODUCTION

The Bible gives us many ways to understand our lives as followers of Jesus. It tells us we are a family, we are soldiers, and we are His body. But one of the richest depictions of our place in Christ is as subjects of the King. Our God is sovereign, He rules in heaven, and He rules over us. We may not see the fullness of His kingdom on earth before His return, but we are part of the mission to advance His kingdom. In this study we will consider what the Bible tells us about the kingdom of God, and our role in it.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What was the best news you ever received?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Humanity Is At Odds With The King and His Kingdom

Q1. Read Zechariah 9:9; John 1:49, 18:37; Matthew 16:15-23; Ephesians 2:1-2

There should be no doubt that Jesus is King. Zechariah prophesied it, Nathanael declared it (John 1:49) and in response to Pilate, Jesus confirmed it. In Matthew 16 we see Peter’s rapid transformation from the recipient of God’s revelation that Jesus is Messiah (and therefore king) to the messenger of Satan’s rebellion against His kingdom. Like Peter, our humanity struggles against submission to the King. What do you find as the most common areas where the things of God and the things of man are at odds? If we refuse to obey God, who is actually at work in our heart according to Ephesians 2:2?

Jesus Defeats Satan, Sin, Death, & Our Rebellion

Q2. Read Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 2:9-10, 13-15

At the cross, the power of God’s kingdom prevailed against the kingdom of darkness. How does Ephesians 1:19-20 describe the power and strength that is therefore now available to us? Ephesians 1:21- & 22 describe the vast extent of the rule of Christ. Colossians 2:10, 13, 14 tells us *you* have been made complete, *you* were made alive in Him, and the *debt which was hostile toward you* has been cancelled. His victory was your victory! Take a moment to partner with someone in your group, and ask God to release that great power over an area of your life that needs victory.

What is Our Response?

Q3. Read John 3:3; Romans 10:9-10

In light of the great power and majesty of our sovereign king we are compelled to respond. And our response determines our destiny. If we don’t respond to the

King’s invitation we will never see His kingdom (John 3:3). Paul tells us in Romans 10:9-10 that there are two parts to our response, belief in our hearts and confession with our mouths. Share with your group the journey of faith you took in connecting your belief in God with your expressed faith to others. What are some of the occasions you have confessed your faith publicly? If you haven’t done so yet, take the opportunity now!

Jesus Has Given Us His Mission!

Q4. Read Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20

The good news of God’s kingdom was meant to be shared and to be advanced against the kingdom of darkness. In what powerful ways did Jesus direct the apostles to advance His kingdom in Matthew 10:8? As we approach the end of the age and the second coming of Christ, Matthew 24:14 tells us this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world! In what ways can you, directly or indirectly, take part in making disciples of all nations? Would you personally consider participating in a short-term missions trip?

WRAP-UP

Jesus extends to us an invitation into His kingdom. But our human nature struggles against submission to a king. At the cross Jesus defeated Satan, sin and death. When we choose to submit to God we deny Satan access to work in our hearts. Jesus’ victory was our victory! In response, we must both believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, so that we will see God’s kingdom. As representatives of the King we have the authority and the power to advance His kingdom against the kingdom of darkness. Even now, we are called to join in His mission to bring the good news to all nations, welcoming them into God’s kingdom.

Memory Verse

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news."

Mark 1:15 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:_____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)_____

Challenge

Ask God for an opportunity to bring the good news of the kingdom to all nations either through donating to a missionary organization, or perhaps by committing to a short-term missions trip.

Q1

Zechariah 9:9 ESV - 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

John 1:49 ESV - 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

John 18:37 ESV - 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

Read Matthew 16:15-23 in your Bible

Ephesians 2:1-2 NLT - 1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil--the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

Q2

Ephesians 1:18-23 NIV - 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 2:9-10, 13-15 NASB - 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him *you have been made complete*, and He is the head over all rule and authority; ... 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, *He made you alive* together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having *canceled out the certificate of debt* consisting of decrees against us, which *was hostile to us*; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Q3

John 3:3 ESV - 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Romans 10:9-10 ESV - 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Q4

Matthew 10:7-8 NIV - 7 As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 24:14 ESV - 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV - 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Prayer requests con't _____
