

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN



WEEK 2: The Kingdom of God is Like ... a Sunday Night Dress-Up Meal?

APPETIZER (INTRO): THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE

...

When you said "As it is in Heaven?" I say: "So what's that like?" AND THEN DO THAT.

The Good News is that Jesus said a lot about what the Kingdom is like...

DINE IN (MAIN): BE RADICAL

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 // Matthew 13:47-50 // Matthew 13:31-33

The Kingdom of Heaven is ... radical forgiveness

- Mercy where it doesn't make sense. Grace where it is not deserved.

The Kingdom of Heaven is ... radical welcome

- A net flung far and wide where all are welcome.

The Kingdom of Heaven is ... radical peace

- Love every day. Peace every day.

TAKE OUT (CONCLUSION): BRING THE KINGDOM

EVERY TIME we choose mercy and inclusion and peace, we live out what the kingdom of God is like.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

HANG OUT | Large Group

1. If you were given complete control over a newly formed Kingdom, what “laws” would you create to make it your “perfect” Kingdom? (Assume that the “typical” laws against harming others, stealing, etc. are already in place). Example: No pineapple on pizza? No jobs allowed to start before 11AM? No country music?

HEAR | Discussion Groups

We're going to look at what Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven looks like by discussing three of his parables. Read each parable and discuss the questions.

2. **The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:21-35**

a) In the sermon, we noted the amount of money the first servant owed: the modern equivalent of 600,000 days of work (or over 1600 years)! What point was Jesus trying to make by using such a ridiculous and unrealistic amount for money that the servant owed?

b) Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this king. What does this tell us about God?

c) What does it look like to be “radically forgiving?”

d) Where is it hardest to forgive? How can we be like the second servant?

3. **The Parable of the Net: Matthew 13:47-50**

a) How is the Kingdom of Heaven like a net that catches EVERYTHING?

b) How have you seen this, or not seen this, in your life?

c) Why do we struggle with this?

d) What does it mean to be “radically welcoming?”

e) How can the Church do a better job of being radically welcoming?

4. **The Parable of the Mustard Seed and Yeast: Matthew 13:31-33**

a) What did Jesus mean by this parable? How is the Kingdom like something small that turns into something much bigger?

b) How does God’s Kingdom work this way?

c) Where have you seen this in your own life, or the lives of others? (Little things having a big impact)

5. Why do we focus on the “negative” side of the Kingdom parables (who will be left out, for example?) How does starting with what Jesus said change our view of the Kingdom of God?

HUDDLE | Huddles

6. Together, do a reflective reading of the Lord’s prayer. Let each line of the Lord’s prayer guide your prayer together. Pray the Lord’s prayer through once. Then read it line by line, and pause for prayers in between each line.

Our Father, who is in Heaven, Hallowed by your name

Pause and pray prayers of praise to God, who is hallowed and Holy

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Pray for places where you long for God’s Kingdom to come - think of and pray for places and situations where there needs to be more forgiveness, welcome, and peace, like exists in the Kingdom of God. Pray that you would be part of bringing God’s Kingdom

Give us this day our daily bread

Pray for your own personal needs and the ways you long for God to provide for you

And Forgive us our trespasses

Name the areas in your life where you have not lived in the ways you feel God has called you. Ask for God’s forgiveness.

As we forgive those who trespass against us

Pray for areas where you need grace to forgive. Pray for relationships you know where mercy is needed.

And lead us not into temptation

Pray for God to help you walk in the ways of the Kingdom of God and to avoid things that are not God’s ways

But deliver us from evil

Pray for protection for you and anyone else that needs God’s protection

For thine in the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen

Pray prayers of thanks that God has the power to hear and answer our prayers.