

# Grow Group Resources:

## Sermon Summary:

**Title:** *Welcome to Grace – Kingdom Priority*

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:25–34, especially verse 33: *“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

**Sermon Link:** [https://www.youtube.com/live/f5\\_6Ab2\\_sHE](https://www.youtube.com/live/f5_6Ab2_sHE)

### Main Ideas:

#### 1. Grace’s Vision Statement

- *“We are growing together as deeply rooted followers of Jesus who steward our gifts to serve God’s kingdom.”*
- The series has explored:
  - Growing together (community, “grow groups”).
  - Being deeply rooted (building life on Jesus and his Word).
  - Serving God’s kingdom (today’s focus).

#### 2. The Problem of Distraction

- Like the preacher’s childhood boating story, we’re given responsibility in God’s kingdom but often get distracted.
- Distractions often come through **worry, anxiety, and materialism**.
- Jesus tells his audience not to be anxious about food, clothing, or life, but to focus on God’s kingdom.

#### 3. What is God’s Kingdom?

- Not castles or armies, but **God’s rule and reign on earth**.
- Already here through Jesus (healing, peace, justice, mercy).
- Still coming fully when Christ returns.

- Believers are **ambassadors** (2 Cor. 5) – representatives of God’s reign on earth.

#### 4. Overcoming Worry & Materialism

- **Worry doesn’t work** – it adds nothing to life.
- **Know your worth** – you are more valuable to God than birds or flowers.
- **Know your Father** – God is good, loving, and provides what you need.

#### 5. Seeking First the Kingdom

- It’s not just putting God at the start of the day, but letting **all of life** come under his reign.
- Like tithing, it’s not about giving God a slice, but acknowledging everything belongs to him.
- Seeking his kingdom means:
  - **Inwardly** – righteousness (God’s reign in your heart, mind, and body).
  - **Outwardly** – justice (God’s reign expressed in the world through peace, mercy, healing, and truth).

#### 6. How to Seek First the Kingdom

- **Preach to yourself** – remind yourself daily of your mission and God’s truth.
- **Pray** – “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven” (Lord’s Prayer).
- **Partner with God** – actively join him in your workplace, family, church, and community to bring peace, justice, and hope.

#### Closing Challenge:

- Grace Baptist’s vision isn’t just about building a church, but about **building God’s kingdom together**.
- Each believer is called to use their gifts, empowered by the Spirit, to join God’s mission locally and globally.
- The invitation: *Be part of God’s kingdom work by growing, rooting, stewarding, and serving together.*

## Small Group Discussion:

- As we finish our series called *Welcome to Grace*, we want to consider how we can serve God's Kingdom and what might distract us from making it a priority in our lives.
- Have someone read **Matthew 6:25-34** out loud.
  - What stood out to you as you heard these verses again? What questions arise in your mind?
- Pastor Ryan shared a story about how he was given a task to help tie up a boat and was distracted by the wind and the waves.
  - Can you think of a time when you had an important task, but were distracted and failed to complete it?
- **The Kingdom**
  - Jesus calls His followers to seek first the Kingdom of God. In order to live out this command, we need to know what His Kingdom is.
    - What images come to mind when you think about the word *kingdom*? Have you heard other Bible verses, messages, or books that have been helpful in your understanding of what God's Kingdom is?
  - The word for kingdom in this context speaks about God's reign, rule, or authority in the universe.
    - What words or images describe what it looks like when God's rule is expressed in a person's life, in a group of people, or in the world?
  - **For further study:** A helpful resource on the Kingdom of God is found on the Bible Project Website. You can watch the 5-minute video if your grow group has a TV available.
    - Link: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/gospel-kingdom/>
- **The Distractions**
  - In Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6, which is a part of the Sermon on the Mount, He indicates that anxiety and worry about the cares of this world can become a major distraction from believers seeking God's Kingdom.

- Why can things like food, drink, and clothing be such a distraction for humans? What other earthly needs/concerns can take our focus off serving God's Kingdom? How do we differentiate between worry and responsibility?
- Jesus reveals a number of promises that can help us take our worries off of material needs, so we can prioritize the Kingdom. In the summary, we see three main ideas: Worrying doesn't work, Knowing your worth, and Knowing your Father.
- Which of these truths helps you overcome worry most in your own life?
- **The Pursuit**
  - Seeking God's Kingdom in our lives can be expressed in many practical ways as we expand His authority through the fruit of the Spirit, expressed in the Gifts of the Spirit, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
  - We need to remind ourselves of Scriptures that point us to God's mission in the world. Can you think of verses in the Bible that can cause our **passion** for God's Kingdom to grow? (Maybe read Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 12:9-21, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
  - In Matthew 6:10 Jesus invites His followers to **pray** "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
    - What are some areas in your world that need to see God's Kingdom come? That a moment right now to pray for these issues.
  - We are called to **partner** with God in the expansion of His Kingdom. This is often expressed in serving the needs in our world with the gifts and talents God has given us.
    - Take a moment to think about your coming week and some needs that you might come across or are aware of in your home, workplace, school, or community.
    - What is one action you could take to bring God's peace, mercy, joy, healing, salvation, or love to that situation?
    - Share that action with one person in your group and commit to following up the next time you meet.
- **Close in Prayer**