

KINGDOM FIRST - STUDY GUIDE

SESSION ONE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Kingdom First study. Our hope and prayer is that this short study will give you new ways of looking at what the kingdom of God is like, and perhaps whet your appetite for learning more about how you can become an expression of the kingdom of God, here and now.

Before we launch into the first video teaching by Philip Zimmermann, let's spend a few minutes with these discussion and reflection questions.

DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think about how you would define the Kingdom of God in your own words, then summarize it below.

2. If you could use one analogy or word picture to explain the kingdom of God, what would you use?

“Indeed, the social and political realm, along with the individual heart, is the only place in all creation where the kingdom of God, or his effective will, is currently permitted to be absent... So when Jesus directs us to pray, “Thy kingdom come,” he does not mean we should pray for it to come into existence. Rather, we pray for it to take over at all points in the personal, social, and political order where it is now excluded:
“On earth as it is in heaven.”

DALLAS WILLARD, THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

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VIDEO: SESSION ONE

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all he has and buys that field.”

MATTHEW 13:44

The kingdom of God is like the _____ of God.

The kingdom of God is like a _____ .

“When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors... But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.”

LUKE 14:12-14

The kingdom of God is like a life of _____ .

“The Bible doesn’t preach prosperity in our narrow, 21st-century understanding of the word. But what it does teach is the shalom of God. Something that is far richer, deeper and broader than the temporary and shallow happiness that economic prosperity gives people. Shalom, a word that appears over 250 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, is a vision of what life is like when lived in line with God’s agenda. Shalom is about comprehensive well-being and flourishing at every level of life - socially, economically, spiritually and politically. It incorporates contentment, health, justice, liberation, fulfillment, freedom and hope.

STEVE CHALK, THE LOST MESSAGE OF JESUS

Peace with God, peace with your neighbor,
peace with yourself, and peace with creation.

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that God wants to have happen in his kingdom? Why does it seem like the things that God wants to have happen aren't always happening?

2. If the kingdom of God is truly like the Rule of God, where what God wants to have happen, actually happens, what observations can we make about the kingdom of God among us?

3. Why is it significant that the first miracle of Jesus was turning water into wine?

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

4. How does it make you feel to think the kingdom of God is like a party?

5. Philip mentioned that a life of shalom is a life at peace with God, with your neighbor, with yourself, and with creation. Which of these are you most at peace with? Which are you least at peace with?

6. Where would you like more shalom in your life?
