

KINGDOM FIRST - STUDY GUIDE

SESSION TWO

INTRODUCTION

In week one we talked about three different pictures of the kingdom of God: the kingdom of God is like the rule of God, the kingdom of God is like a party, and the kingdom of God is like a life of shalom.

We hope that you are opening your heart to the message of the kingdom of God. As Philip says, it can mess you up in a good way.

In this week's session, we will be taking a look at three more pictures of the kingdom of God.

VIDEO: SESSION TWO

The kingdom of God is like the _____ of God.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.”

“Pay close attention now: I’m creating new heavens and a new earth.
All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten.
Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I’m creating:
No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish;
No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don’t enjoy a full lifetime;
One-hundredth birthdays will be considered normal— anything less will seem like a cheat.
They’ll build houses and move in. They’ll plant fields and eat what they grow.
No more building a house that some outsider takes over,
they won’t work and have nothing come of it,
they won’t have children snatched out from under them.
Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow, lion and ox eat straw from the same trough,
Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill anywhere on my Holy Mountain,” says God.“

ISAIAH 65, THE MESSAGE

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The kingdom of God is like _____ on Earth.

“They were not thinking about how to secure themselves a place in heaven after they died. The phrase “kingdom of heaven,” which we find frequently in Matthew’s Gospel where the others have “kingdom of God,” does not refer to a place, called “heaven, where God’s people will go after death. It refers to the rule of heaven, that is, of God, being brought to bear in the present world. Thy kingdom come, said Jesus, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Jesus’ contemporaries knew that the creator God intended to bring justice and peace to his world here and now.”

N. T. WRIGHT, THE CHALLENGE OF JESUS

“A little faith will take you to heaven,
but I pray for the kind of faith that will bring heaven to earth!”

CHARLES SPURGEON, 18TH CENTURY PREACHER

**We want to see how heaven breaks
into our lives, our city, and our world.**

The kingdom of God is like _____ .

“We are Easter Sunday people living on Good Friday.”

N. T. WRIGHT, NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLAR

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NOTES

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How would you summarize the dream of God?

2. What are some of God's nightmares that you have experienced in your life, family, or community?

3. How much of your focus has been on you getting to heaven rather than heaven coming to earth?

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DISCUSSION & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

4. Read the following quote by G. K. Chesterton and then discuss this question: How does Easter play into the idea of the kingdom of God?

“On the third day (Easter Sunday) the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but the dawn.”

G. K. CHESTERTON, THE EVERLASTING MAN

5. How would you describe the life that God wants for us on this side of eternity?
