

## **Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 8-30-20**

### **Kingdom Foundations**

#### **1/3 — Looking Back**

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video [here](#)), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out — How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: *God*. In: *fellow believers and family*. Out: *unbelievers*)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

#### **2/3 — Looking to Jesus in the Present**

Explore the Scripture passage together: Revelation 21:1-10; 22:1-5

- As the facilitator, first read the passage aloud and invite the other members of the group to just listen and take note of what stands out to them. You may want to read it more than once.
- Discuss the passage using the “Five W’s” questions below (If possible, it may be helpful to use a whiteboard or some other writing tool to record the answers that you group comes up with under each question):
  - What — What is the kingdom? What does it consist of? What is it like?
  - Who — Who is “*in*” the kingdom? Who are its citizens, its subjects?
  - Where — Where is the kingdom located? Where can it be seen and experienced?
  - Why — Why is the kingdom important to Jesus? Why is it important for us?
  - When — When will the kingdom “*come*”? Is it here now, or is it coming later?

#### **3/3 — Looking Forward**

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “*What are the practical implications of what we have just discovered about the kingdom?*” You will certainly still have many unanswered questions about the kingdom, but you will also likely have uncovered at least a few concrete ideas about it. Reflect on what changes you may need to make in your daily life if the things you have discussed are actually true. Does your current lifestyle—the way you *think, speak, act, and live* overall—reflect these realities you have discussed? After some time of personal reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, asking Jesus to bring your lives more into alignment with His kingdom.

**Read through Revelation 21:1-10; 22:1-5 and answer these questions, based on what is actually there in the text:**

**What** — What is the kingdom? What does it consist of? What is it like?

- Example: *The kingdom has something to do with reigning/power.* (Rev. 22:5)

**Who** — Who is “*in*” the kingdom? Who are its citizens, its subjects?

**Where** — Where is the kingdom located? Where can it be seen and experienced?

**Why** — Why is the kingdom important to Jesus? Why is it important for us?

**When** — When will the kingdom “*come*”? Is it here now, or is it coming later?