

Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 9-6-20

What is the Kingdom? Pt. 1

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 these Scripture passages together: Isaiah 42:1-4; 52:13; 53:7, 10; Daniel 7:13-14; Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 5:6, 13

- As the facilitator, first read the passages 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 these more than once. Invite the other members of the group to pay special attention to connections between these passages.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who God is and how He exercises power in His kingdom?*”

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 God’s use of power?*” 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 (especially how you exercise power in your spheres of influence)—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.

Personal Reflection Guide — What is the Kingdom? Pt. 1

Read through the following texts and answer questions below:

- Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:5-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; 42:1-4; 52:13-53:12; Daniel 7:13-14; Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 5:6, 13

How does God exercise power in His kingdom?

- Example: *God exercises power through delegation* (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 8:5-6, etc.)

How does God's way of exercising power differ from the ways in which you most often see power exercised in the world around you?

How does God's way of exercising power differ from the ways in which you tend to exercise power in your spheres of influence?