

Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 9-13-20

What is the Kingdom? Pt. 2

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: Revelation 21:1-11; 22-27; 22:1-5

- 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.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from this passage about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative question: “*which aspects or specific promises of God’s future kingdom as presented in this passage do you find the most encouraging and hopeful?*”

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 cross-shaped government for my current daily life?*” 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—His *cross-shaped government*.

Personal Reflection Guide — What is the Kingdom? Pt. 2

Read through the following texts and answer questions below:

- Revelation 21:1-11, 22-27; 22:1-5; Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 60; 65; Ezekiel 47; Romans 8:22-23

Which aspects or specific promises of God’s future kingdom as presented in these passages do you find the most encouraging and hopeful?

- Example: “*death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore*” (Rev. 21:4)

What are the practical implications of what you have discovered from these passages about God’s *cross-shaped government* for your current daily life?