

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

Who Will Be in the Kingdom?

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 21:1-22:5

- 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: “*what do we learn from this passage about who will be in God’s future kingdom and what those people will be like?*”
- Alternative question: “*what aspect of our new identity as a kingdom of royal priests—a family of servant ambassadors—fills you with the most hope? (i. e. being family, being sons and daughters of God, reigning with God, seeing God’s face, etc.)*”

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 my being a citizen of God’s future kingdom—His cross-shaped government—in my current daily life?*” You will certainly still have many unanswered questions about your kingdom citizenship, 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 your true identity as a member of God’s kingdom family of servant ambassadors? 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.