

Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 10-11-20

When 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: 1 Timothy 6:12-16; James 5:7-9; 1 John 2:28

- 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 these passages about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative question: “*how do the exhortations of the apostles given in these passages encourage or challenge you in your current life circumstances?*”

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 does it look like practically for me to ‘fight the good fight of faith,’ to ‘be patient,’ to ‘abide in Him,’ in my current life circumstances?*” Pay special attention to whatever longings, emotions or mental images surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to however the Spirit may want to speak to you through them. 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 Jesus’ desire for you to live as a loyal subject of His kingdom until He returns? After some time of personal reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praying together, asking Jesus for the strength you need to live faithful lives of obedience and loyalty.