

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: The King's Mission • Date: Sept. 22/23, 2018 • Speaker: Matt Boda

INTRODUCTION

This past weekend Matt walked us through Luke 14:1-24 and reminded us to view the Gospel as more than just salvation... but as an invitation to the Kingdom of God. Jesus often spoke of the "Kingdom"; the goodness and reign of God in the world and in our lives.

READ TOGETHER

Read through Jeremiah 29:1-7 together. Israel was exiled, and became outsiders in a foreign nation. Yet, God still had His Kingdom in mind, and encouraged Israel to make it tangible. *What does God command them to do? What do you see in this scripture? Are there any comparisons to following Jesus in your life, or in this culture?*

One of the surprising things God says is "settle in". You are where you are for a reason; to bring the Kingdom of God into your family, neighbourhood and workplace. God has placed people and circumstances all around you for this purpose.

TRY THIS

Draw out 6 concentric circles and label them:

1. Immediate Family 2. Extended Family 3. Friends 4. Coworkers 5. Neighbours 6. Acquaintances

Take some individual time to ask God about the people in your life, from each circle.

Who does He bring to mind? Why do you think He brought them to your mind? Based on our passage, what tangible ways can you bring the Kingdom of God to them?

One of the main ways Jesus brought the Kingdom into people's lives was to address poverty. But not just address economic poverty. He addressed people's poverty in many forms:

1. Physical poverty – lack of basic needs – clothing, food, shelter
2. Personal poverty – lack of dignity, self-esteem, self-image, self-identity or confidence
3. Social poverty – lack of connection and relationship
4. Spiritual poverty – lack of connection to God, meaning, purpose, fulfillment

There was lack in their life, and Jesus came and brought abundance.

WHAT IS POVERTY?

First Definition of Poverty – Merriam-Webster: the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.

Second Definition of Poverty – United Nations: Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough food and clothing for a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

What strikes you as you read these definitions?

We've talked about the Kingdom of God, we've asked God about who in our lives needs to experience the Kingdom, and we've looked at the many ways in which people can experience lack, or poverty, in their life. **So, what would it look like to bring the Kingdom of God into someone's life? What steps can you take with someone from your "circles" this week?**

If you are unsure, there is no better way than to invite someone over for dinner or for a coffee. Listen to them and their story. People are often announcing their needs, and we will hear them when we simply learn to listen. God may highlight a need or place of "lack" in their life that you can address.

Take some time to pray for those God has placed on your mind and heart.