



Thy Kingdom Come Series

Small Group Material

Leader Guide

Part 2 - "How The Kingdom Advances"

August 26th, 2018

Bottom Line: *His Kingdom comes everywhere we go.*

Study Verses: Matthew 4:16-17, Matthew 13:33, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Define The Win: Participants would continue to explore the implications having a Kingdom mindset has on their words, actions and thought life. They would be able to articulate that they have the power to bring God's Kingdom to bear in this world wherever they go. Group members would recognize their impact comes through living distinct lives fueled by Christ's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Key Points

- *The Kingdom of God isn't just a place to dwell, but a way to live.*
- *The entrance to God's Kingdom isn't just a point in time, but an ongoing response.*
- *Our culture doesn't find itself in a crisis of morality, but a crisis of identity.*
- *The way of God's Kingdom is subversive. It is nearly undetectable.*
- *The way of God's Kingdom is sweeping. It is certainly undeniable.*
- *The way of God's Kingdom runs under everything we think and do.*
- *As we live in our given identity, we adapt to the culture of His Kingdom.*

- As we live out our given identity, we affect the culture of our world.
- We are His witness. We are His body. We are His ambassadors.
- People have not learned who they are so they drift through worldly patterns.

ENCOUNTER

- How does not knowing who we are cause us to drift towards worldly patterns?
- Complete the sentence: Christians in today's culture should be _____. What makes you answer in the way that you do?
- How does a believer in Christ influence culture without being molded to it?

FORMATION

- Read Matthew 13:33. What does it mean that the way of God's Kingdom is subversive and almost undetectable?
- Read Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. According to these passages, what are some roles we've been given as believers in Christ?
- In one of the passages above we are referred to as Christ's ambassador. What is the main responsibility of an ambassador? How should seeing ourselves in this way influence how we live our lives?

EXPRESSION

- Where do you wrestle with trusting your new identity in Christ? How is this struggle influencing your words, actions and thought life?
- In what ways are you having an impact and bringing Christ's love to the things you touch?
- How can you live a distinct life and bring the Kingdom to bear wherever you go this week?

LEADER INSIGHT: As we live out our new identity in Christ, we affect the culture of our world. We do so not in a brash way, or with a "look at me" mindset. Neither does the way we go about making an impact come from sticking out by being judgmental, weird, or offensive. We're not called to be the moral police, but to live in such a way that people notice our willingness to love, forgive, seek justice, and bring value to the marginalized.

We're urged to be salt and the purpose of salt is to provide much-needed flavor to everything it touches. We bringing a bit of God's Kingdom to the world in a nearly undetectable way. The subversive nature of having a Kingdom mindset does its work behind the scenes. When we don't who we are we drift towards reflecting worldly patterns. Instead of impacting the culture, we mold to it. Our culture doesn't find itself in a crisis of morality, but a crisis of identity.

Scripture speaks about us being Christ's ambassador, which means we are called to represent His character through our actions and words. His Kingdom comes wherever we go. The Kingdom of God isn't just a place to dwell, but a way to live. Neither is the entrance to God's Kingdom just a point in time, but rather an ongoing response.

When people look at our lives, they should see Christ, and at the heart of Who he is, was humility, love, and sacrifice. He didn't seek the spotlight but that didn't prevent Him from turning the world upside down forever. Living distinct lives might be undetectable, but the impact we have should be undeniable.