

Exploring the Kingdom

1. What do you currently know about the kingdom of God? (For example, how would you describe it? Who are its citizens? What is its purpose?) Write here your description of the Kingdom.

2. The bulk of Jesus' teaching directly concerned the Kingdom of God. Much of the time, He taught with parables – Stories or illustrations that made a single point about his kingdom. Below are references to 16 kingdom parables. Choose four to read; then summarize each in a sentence or two. Some we've already looked at:

Mt. 13:1-23:

Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43:

Mt. 13:31-32:

Mt. 13:33

Mt. 13:44

Mt. 13:45-46

Mt. 13:47-52:

Mt 18:1-9:

Mat. 18: 21-35

Mt. 20:1-16

Mt. 21:33-46

Mt. 22:1-14:

Mt. 25:1-13:

Mt. 25:31-46

Mk. 4:26-29:

Lk. 19:11-27:

3. Taken together, what have these parables taught you about the kingdom?

4. What did Jesus teach about the kingdom in the following verses?

Mt. 4:17

Mt. 12:28:

Mt. 16:19:

Mt. 19:23-24

Mk. 9:1:

Mk 12:34:

Mk. 14:25:

Lk. 4:43.

Lk 9:11

Lk 9:62:

Lk 12:31-32

Lk. 16:16:

Lk. 17:20-21:

Jn 3:3:

Acts 1:6-7:

5. What new insight did you gain about the kingdom from the verses above?
6. Today we tend to be “organizationally focused” or “local church focused” or even “small group focused.” What might be different if we became more kingdom focused?
7. What do you think are the unique challenges of maintaining a kingdom focus (for example, “the kingdom is invisible”)?
8. Make a list of things to which you give your loyalty and priority. In what sense might these conflict with kingdom living?
9. How does what you’ve learned about the Kingdom affect the way you define success?
10. How has your understanding of the Kingdom changed through this study?
11. What new questions do you now have about the kingdom? My issue for the year is:
12. What new insights have you gained?
13. Complete the following statement: If I were to live more like a citizen of God’s kingdom, I would need to: