



# THE KINGDOM

Purpose:

- To understand the role of the church within the Kingdom of God

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### Mark 1:14-15

- Jesus came proclaiming that the “Kingdom of God is near.”

### QUESTION: WHAT IS A KINGDOM?

L.N. #1

- All Kingdoms have four defining qualities:
  - A leader who has absolute authority
  - People living under the authority of the leader
  - A code of law the people submit to
  - A territory with boundaries

### QUESTION: WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

L.N. #2

- God is the king, and he reigns with absolute authority
- Followers of Jesus are citizens of his Kingdom
- The Bible is our law code, our standard for living
- The Kingdom doesn't have boundaries like a human Kingdom does. Anywhere God reigns is the Kingdom of God
  - The Kingdom of God is found in the individual heart of a Jesus-follower, as well as the collective heart of a Jesus-following church.
  - The Kingdom will one day find its fullest expression in heaven- where everyone will perfectly and joyfully submit to God's reign.
  - So, the kingdom is both now and not yet- it is here on earth but also hasn't found its fullest expression.

### WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

L.N. #3

#### Luke 4:17-21

- Each of these characteristics of the Kingdom- recovery of sight for the blind, the oppressed being set free, etc...are both literal and metaphorical representations of what life in the kingdom is like
- Example: Jesus literally healed blind people, but more than that he opened the eyes of the spiritually blind.
- In the kingdom of God, and specifically through his church, these qualities should be displayed in the lives of the disciples and the community as a whole.
- In God's Kingdom there is no poverty, no oppression, no conflict, wars, no one goes hungry, no one is forgotten or alone, everyone is loved.
- The church should be the truest representation of the kingdom here on earth. As citizens of another kingdom, we are foreigners here on earth, but the church is our home away from home.

### QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS?

## TRANSITION NOTE

### AT A GLANCE

#### SCRIPTURES:

- Mark 1:14-15
- Luke 4:17-21
- Colossians 1:15-18
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Acts 2:42-47
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4

#### CHALLENGE:

- Devote yourself to the church



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## THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### Colossians 1:15-18

#### QUESTION: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- The church is not a building or an event, the church is the people of God- we are the church.

#### QUESTION: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF JESUS IN THE CHURCH?

- Jesus is the head of the church, he alone leads the church, and the church acts as his body.

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- We are the body of Christ, each one of us plays a meaningful role in it.
- When the physical body is properly connected, it experiences life as a single unit.
- Example: If I injure a certain part of my body, the rest of my body will react to that. While I feel the pain in a particular place, my entire body is affected.
  - In the same way, the church must be deeply connected, suffering with one another, rejoicing together.
  - This experience with the church can only be realized with a sincere and deep devotion to the body of Christ.

### Acts 2:42-47

#### QUESTION: WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH CHURCH BEEN IN YOUR LIFE?

#### QUESTION: HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE "GO" TO CHURCH?

- If we wish to experience the fullness of what God wants for us and the church, it will require our devotion to the church.
- When the body meets together, we should make every effort to be present.

L.N. #4

### 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- While there is only one body- there are many churches, and not all these churches are teaching or living according to the standard of Jesus.
  - We must be very thoughtful and prayerful when considering which church community we will devote ourselves to.
- What should you look for (or be careful to avoid) when deciding which church community to devote yourself to?
  - It is essential to be united in our core beliefs and practices

**NEXT STEPS: DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE CHURCH**