

GROUP ICE BREAKER

Describe your ideal or perfect place to live.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will commit to learning from Jesus, the master of prayer.
- I will make this request of Jesus starting today, "Lord, teach me to pray."
- I will begin using the Lord's Prayer as a framework for my prayer time.
- I will give God my worship and adoration in prayer this week.
- I will invite Jesus to go with me as I'm doing what I love this week.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The kingdom was Jesus' priority one message. He came announcing it from the start, but the history of the kingdom begins in the Garden of Eden where the eternal kingdom of God took on matter and time. God gave his image-bearers the freedom to build this "kingdom" in cooperation with him or independently from Him. Independence was chosen, and heaven and earth were torn apart as sin entered the human experience. Kingdoms began to be built with our ambitions rather than God's, but he wasn't going to let it stay that way.

God began re-establishing his kingdom with Abraham, then through the family line of King David. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God sits above the sin-broken system we live in, enthroned above the earth. Daniel, in interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, said God will set up a kingdom that will endure forever.

This is what the writers of the New Testament call the "good news," that God is beginning the restoration and renewal of his creation through the person and work of his Son, Jesus. That's been his desire, his "will" since the Garden when sin entered the human experience. The good news of the kingdom has a specific purpose for healing the world and the lives within it.

But we live within kingdoms in conflict. While the kingdom of heaven is happening now, it is also yet to come in its fullness. We live in the tension of the now and not yet, and that is the opportunity to step into "your will be done." God's will is not hard to discover, the challenge is often submitting to it. Submitting your will to his is a decision to be a part of God's kingdom mission. When you pray "your kingdom, your will," you're aligning your heart with God's, and submitting your will to his.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe what your experience with prayer has been? (Ex: positive, negative, sporadic, consistent, etc).
- 2. Jesus' priority message was the kingdom. Read Matthew 7:21, 18:3-4 and 19:14, Luke 17:20-21, John 18:36, and Romans 14:17. What do we learn about God's Kingdom from these passages?
- 3. In what ways does culture try to influence you to pursue your will more than God's? How have you fought against that?
- 4. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the mission of God in our world today? What is your role in it?
- 5. What are some ways God is using you and/or Blue Oaks to give the world glimpses of the coming kingdom?
- 6. Why is it challenging to pray "your will be done?" How does praying "your will be done" align your will with God's?
- 7. What is one action you could take this week in your relationships, workplace or community to be part of God's mission to re-establish His kingdom to this earth?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will make this request of Jesus starting today, "Lord, teach me to pray."
- □ I will pray for more of heaven to restore more of the earth.
- I will pray for more of God's will to take over more of my life as a follower of Jesus.
- I will be God's messenger taking the good news of his kingdom into my corner of the world.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

🖬 Ma

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

A Deeper Look At the Sermon on the Mount: Living Out the Way of Jesus, John Stott

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week: