



# UNSEEN

# KINGDOM

The Master Passion of Jesus

# UNSEEN KINGDOM

*The Master Passion of Jesus*

“To advance the  
Gospel of Jesus and  
**His Kingdom** into  
the nations through  
spiritual generations  
of laborers living  
and discipling  
among the lost.”

*The Calling Statement of The Navigators*

# WHY THE UNSEEN KINGDOM?

“There is no clear manifestation of the kingdom of God in the corporate being of the Church of God today. The man outside has **no clear vision of the kingdom of God** when he looks at the Christian Church. That one undivided whole, the holy nation, **where is it?** Blessed be God, the spiritual unity has never been lost, for He has kept that within his own power; but **the outward manifestation has been entirely lost.** The most disastrous phase of the Church’s failure is her failure in corporate capacity to reveal to men what the kingdom of God will mean, when it is established in the world.” So wrote the famed preacher and evangelist G. Campbell Morgan in his book *The Teaching of Christ* in 1913. How much more true are his words almost a hundred years later?

Jesus spoke much of the kingdom of God. “Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, **‘The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.’**”

Luke 17:20-21 • New International Version

These two realities confront us as we consider the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is unseen in two opposing ways. One is due to its nature. **It is not a kingdom of this world but rather an eternal one.** As Paul has instructed us ‘what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.’ (II Corinthians 4:8) And again as Jesus spoke to Pilate before his crucifixion, Jesus stated that his kingdom was from another place and would it achieve its purposes through the proclamation of truth. An unconventional method indeed! (John 18:33-37)

The second opposite reality concerning the unseen kingdom is a rebuke to conventional Christianity. **The kingdom of God is unseen due to our ignorance of its truths, our sloth at living them or our outright rebellion against them.** We have neglected to reveal the kingdom and this was not the King’s intention. Will the kingdom remain unseen or will we advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations?

In this study, our purposes will then be twofold. First, **we will seek to discover the hidden truths of the kingdom that can only be seen by the eyes of faith** (John 3:3). And by accomplishing the first we will seek to establish the second which will be to apply the teachings of the kingdom to our own lives so that the message of the kingdom may be made manifest to a waiting world. The eternity of the kingdom will always be unseen at least in this life. But **the culture of the kingdom must be extended into every sphere of human activity** because as G.Campbell Morgan has written “...the Kingdom of God was His chief concern, His constant inspiration, His abiding purpose, and His all-sufficient power. Follow Him through all the days of His public ministry, listen to every word that fell from His lips, accompany Him upon every journey that He took, watch every action of beneficence or of judgment; and in the light of the things He Himself said it becomes apparent that the reason for all speech and all action, for all journeys and all tarryings, for all pity and all anger, was the Kingdom of God. **It was the master passion of His life,** the fundamental conception of all His teaching and all His doing.” (*The Teaching of Christ*)

UNSEEN KINGDOM

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

BEFORE YOU START - <i>Contact Information • The Kingdom Journey</i>	<b>pages 1-2</b>
CHAPTER 1 - <i>Is the Kingdom a New Idea?</i>	<b>pages 3-6</b>
CHAPTER 2 - <i>Who Gets in the Kingdom?</i>	<b>pages 7-10</b>
CHAPTER 3 - <i>The Kingdom Heart - Parables of the Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 11-14</b>
CHAPTER 4 - <i>The Kingdom Mind - Parables of the Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 15-18</b>
CHAPTER 5 - <i>Power in the Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 19-22</b>
CHAPTER 6 - <i>Kingdom Laws</i>	<b>pages 23-27</b>
CHAPTER 7 - <i>Kingdoms in Conflict • Spiritual Warfare</i>	<b>pages 28-32</b>
CHAPTER 8 - <i>Kingdoms in Conflict • World Values vs. Kingdom Values</i>	<b>pages 33-36</b>
CHAPTER 9 - <i>People of the Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 37-40</b>
CHAPTER 10 - <i>The Eternal Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 41-43</b>
CHAPTER 11 - <i>The Gospel of the Kingdom</i>	<b>pages 44-47</b>
CHAPTER 12 - <i>Worship the King!</i>	<b>pages 48-51</b>
EVALUATION	<b>page 52</b>

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UNSEEN KINGDOM



# CONTACT INFORMATION

- Write down a list of the names, addresses, email addresses and cell/phone numbers of everyone in your group who will journey with you in this study of the Kingdom.

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# THE KINGDOM JOURNEY

- Look at your life as a spiritual journey. In the space below draw out your life as a map, a timeline or a graph to illustrate your spiritual life up to this point. When did your journey start? Who or what has influenced you? What highs and lows have you experienced? Also draw out where you would like your spiritual life to go and how you will get there. Be prepared to share this with your group.

# IS THE KINGDOM A NEW IDEA?

When reading the gospels there is a tendency to think that the concept of the kingdom was an original teaching of Jesus. In this study we will explore the Old Testament to discover the origins of the kingdom.

1. Look back at Genesis 1:28. What authority did God give to Adam and Eve?
2. Read Genesis 3. How did Adam and Eve surrender their right to rule? What were the repercussions of their actions?
3. Read the following passages. What do they say about the rulership of God Himself?  
  
I Chronicles 29:11  
  
Psalm 47  
  
Psalm 115:3  
  
Isaiah 45:9  
  
Daniel 4:1-3;35  
  
Acts 17:24-28
4. Read I Samuel 8. Why did Israel want a king? Why did Israel's desire for a king grieve Samuel?
5. Many years before, the Lord knew the people would demand a king. How did the Lord instruct the king to carry out his rule? (see Deuteronomy 17:14-20). Were there any good reasons to have a king? (see Judges 21:25)

# IS THE KINGDOM A NEW IDEA?

6. In the books of I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles is the story of Israel's kings. Of the 40 kings, only 10 of them honored God. David was the chief of those who honored God but he was also an adulterer and a murderer. This put in the heart of God's people a deep desire for a different kind of king than what they had experienced. What did the people of God desire in a king?

II Samuel 23:2-4

Psalms 2

Psalms 72

Psalms 110

7. Through the prophet Isaiah, what kind of man does God promise will be king? What will be the impact of the reign of this king?

Isaiah 9:6,7

Isaiah 11:1-5

Isaiah 32:1,2, 15-18

Isaiah 40:1-5

Isaiah 42:1-4

Isaiah 49:1-6

Isaiah 61:1-3

# IS THE KINGDOM A NEW IDEA?

8. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. How would God's king be treated by the people of the earth?

9. Read Daniel 7:13-18. This too is a prophecy of the coming king and his impact. How does it describe him and those in his kingdom?

10. Read Revelation chapters 4 & 5. How is God's king described here?

*We live between the first coming of the King, which we learn about in the gospels and the second coming of the King which Daniel prophesied and John wrote about in Revelation. The question that comes to us then is this, "How should we then live as citizens of His kingdom?" This will be the question we will pursue in the rest of our study.*



# THY KINGDOM COME

If you've never noticed, the prayer Jesus taught His disciples that we call "The Lord's Prayer" is really a kingdom prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4). As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# WHO GETS IN THE KINGDOM?

Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of God. It was the first thing He talked about and the last. Even though He made the Kingdom His primary theme, few, if any, clearly grasped its significance. We can hardly blame them, as His words still seem obscure and often enigmatic.

He described the Kingdom as being present, yet future; revealed, yet a mystery; among us, yet not of this world; like a small seed, yet pervading everything. He compared it to a net full of fish, twenty virgins, a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl merchant.

The apostles betrayed their lack of insight about the Kingdom in their very last conversation with Jesus, just before He ascended. They asked if He wasn't about to fulfill their expectations by restoring Israel's political order. They failed to grasp the true scope of the Kingdom. They failed to realize that Jesus, in His teachings, was introducing a truly radical order. He was introducing a new lifestyle with new values, new attitudes, new relationships—in short, a new culture: the Kingdom culture! ...Not a provincial, flawed, human order, but God's untarnished, universal domain—a whole new way of living. There it was, beautifully laid out by God for His people.

When the unique Kingdom culture comes into focus, the incongruities in one's life, the areas that had previously escaped the redemptive process, are called into account. No other biblical truths call our attention to the radical uniqueness of the Christian life as do the teachings on the Kingdom. (Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*, page 89,101)

If the kingdom that Jesus came to bring is “not of this world” (John 18:36) then how can people of this world enter it anyway? Let's see if we can discover how to enter the kingdom from his words.

1. Read Matthew 3:2. What message does John the Baptist give to prepare his audience for the kingdom of God?

What message does Jesus give as he begins his public ministry? (see Matthew 4:17) Why does Jesus focus on repentance at the beginning of His ministry? (see also Mark 1:15) What is repentance?

2. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines repentance (METANEO in Greek) in this way. It literally means to perceive afterwards. META is “after” and NOEO is “to perceive”. It is to change one's mind on purpose after careful reflection. In the New Testament it always involves a change for the better, a changing of one's mind about sin. When Jesus came preaching a new kingdom, why do you think he had to challenge them to think in new and different ways in order to understand His kingdom?

# WHO GETS IN THE KINGDOM?

3. In the following passages what are the results of repentance in our lives?

II Chronicles 7:14

Isaiah 55:7

Acts 3:19

4. From Ephesians 4:22-24, what is the three step process I must follow to go from living a life of selfishness to a life that honors God? Why is step 2 (verse 23) important? How does this relate to repentance?

5. Look at the following verses. What did Jesus say must characterize those who would enter His kingdom? What is the meaning and implication of each of these statements by Jesus?

Matthew 5:20

Matthew 7:21

Matthew 18:3

Matthew 19:23,24

Mark 9:47

Mark 10:14,15

Mark 12:28-34

# WHO GETS IN THE KINGDOM?

6. Who has difficulty entering into Christ's kingdom and why?

Matthew 5:20

Matthew 7:21

Matthew 19:23,24

Matthew 21:28-32

Matthew 23:13

John 3:3-5

7. Look again at questions 5 & 6; what personal qualities are important for anyone desiring to enter God's kingdom?

Examine your life. Have you entered into God's kingdom yet? How did you enter? If you think you haven't entered yet do you know what you need to do to enter? Ask your study leader about this.

8. Read Isaiah 61:1-2. If what was prophesied in these verses came true for a group of people what would be their response? What was people's response to Jesus when He read these very same words and stated that He had come to fulfill these words? (See Luke 4:14-30) If they believed that what Jesus said was true how should they have reacted?

# WHO GETS IN THE KINGDOM?

9. Remember that repentance is “a changing of one’s mind about sin.” It is changing from the way the world around us thinks to the way God wants us to think. (see Romans 12:2) Is there anything in your life right now that you need to change your mind about? Look at the following pattern.

- What do I need to “put off” (Ephesians 4:22) Is there anything I need to stop doing or thinking?
- How do I need to change my thinking about this area in my life? (Ephesians 4:23) What is God’s way of thinking about this area? What does the Word say?
- What new attitudes, actions or behaviors do you need to “put on”? (Ephesians 4:24) What will you do to make this a practical reality this week?

# THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.



# THE KINGDOM HEART

## *Parables of the Kingdom*

Jesus' favorite speech form, the parable, was subversive. Parables sound absolutely ordinary: casual stories about soil and seed, meals and coins and sheep, bandits and victims, farmers and merchants. And they are wholly secular: of his forty or so parables recorded in the Gospels, only one has its setting in church, and only a couple mention the name God. As people heard Jesus tell these stories, they saw at once that they weren't about God, so there was nothing in them threatening their own sovereignty. They relaxed their defenses. They walked away perplexed, wondering what they meant, the stories lodged in their imagination. And then, like a time bomb, they would explode in their unprotected hearts. An abyss opened up at their very feet. He was talking about God; they had been invaded!

Jesus continually threw odd stories down alongside ordinary lives (para, "alongside"; bole, "thrown") and walked away without explanation or altar call. Then listeners started seeing connections: God connections, life connections, eternity connections. The very lack of obviousness, the unlikeness, was the stimulus to perceiving likeness: God likeness, life likeness, eternity likeness. But the parable didn't do the work- it put the listener's imagination to work. Parables aren't illustrations that make things easier; they make things harder by requiring the exercise of our imaginations, which if we aren't careful becomes the exercise of our faith.

*Eugene H. Peterson*

**How to interpret parables:** When interpreting parables it is important to follow certain guidelines in order to understand the true meaning of the parable. The principle parts and figures of a parable represent certain realities. Consider only these principal parts and figures when drawing conclusions. As you interpret parables follow this procedure:

1. Determine the purpose of the parable.
2. Make sure you explain the different parts of the parable in accordance with the main design.
3. Use only the principal parts of the parable in explaining the lesson. It is when people try to interpret the details that error can easily creep in. Do not make the parable say too much.

*(Taken from A Layman's Guide to Interpreting the Bible by Walter Henrichsen • Zondervan)*

1. **A GOOD HEART** • Read Matthew 13:1-23. Why do you think Jesus uses parables to explain the kingdom? What is the message that is sown? What are the differences in the soils? What makes the soil of some people's hearts different from others? What kind of soil is your heart? Is it possible to change the type of soil you are? If so, how?

# THE KINGDOM HEART

*Parables of the Kingdom*

2. **A PURE HEART** • Read Matthew 13:44,45. What is similar about the response of the man (v. 44) and the merchant (v. 45)? What should be our response upon discovering the value of the kingdom? What is significant about the fact that both men had to search for the treasure? At this point, what things of great value do you see about the kingdom?
3. **A COMPASSIONATE HEART** • Read Matthew 25:31-46. List the things the King mentions that the people did or did not do. What does verse 34 tell you about the kingdom? Why do both righteous and unrighteous respond to the Lord in the same way? Can you condense the message of this passage into one sentence? Think Big: What would a nation look like that practiced this kind of social value system? If this is kingdom stuff, the heartbeat of our corporate kingdom, how do we shape our present day life to reflect kingdom culture?

# THE KINGDOM HEART

*Parables of the Kingdom*

4. **A FORGIVING HEART** • Read Matthew 18:21-35. How many times did Jesus say that we need to forgive? What did He mean by this number? In the story, what does the servant do after being forgiven by the master? What is the master's response to the servant's actions? What should be our motivation for genuinely forgiving others? What does this passage say about how God feels when we are bitter to others, after he has forgiven us? What effect does it have on our lives when we can't or won't forgive someone?
5. **A GRACIOUS HEART** • Read Matthew 20:1-16. How did the landowner treat the workers that he hired throughout the day? Why did he pay them all the same? What differences in attitude were evident between the early morning workers, the 11th hour workers and the landowner? How does the attitude of the landowner contrast to the world's viewpoint today of "first come, first served?" How should our lives show forth the same grace that the landowner gave to his workers?

# THE KINGDOM HEART

*Parables of the Kingdom*

6. Look back through your responses to the last five questions. Which of the five areas stood out to you as an area most needy of change in your own life? What do you need to do to make a change in this area? Write out an application below that correlates with that area. Make sure it is a **SMART** application.

**S - Specific**

What specific passage are you seeking to apply?

**M - Measurable**

How will you know when this application is completed? By today? tomorrow? next week?

**A - Attainable**

Is it something that you can really accomplish in the amount of time you have set?

**R - Relevant**

Does the application relate directly to the passage you are studying?

**T - Trackable**

Who will track you to see if you complete your application?

## THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# THE KINGDOM MIND

*Parables of the Kingdom*

“We have twenty-nine parables recorded in the New Testament. Of these, seventeen definitely mention the Kingdom of God, and are declared to be in exposition of it... If we turn to the other twelve we find, although the word Kingdom may not occur in them, in more than half of them the context reveals the fact that they are related to the thought of the Kingdom; and in the whole of them the Kingdom conception is the master idea. Whenever he uttered a parable, in His own mind there was the vision of the Kingdom of God.”

*G. Campbell Morgan • The Teaching of Christ pages 202,203*

“The familiar definition of a parable as “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning” does not say it all but it says enough, and it reminds us that there is a unity between the visible world of nature and the invisible world of the spiritual. God has revealed truth to us in creation as well as in the Bible. The fact that Jesus could use a seed to explain the Word of God, or a feast to explain salvation, is evidence that all truth comes from God and all truth is a unity. The better we know the book of nature, the better we will know the Word of God, if we are yielded to Christ and open to His teaching.”

*Warren W. Wiersbe • Windows on the Parables page 12*

1. **THINK BROAD** (about the Master’s Invitation) Read Matthew 22:1-14 In Matthew 22:1-4, what does the wedding feast represent? In verses 5-6, what are the different motives for declining the invitation? Who did respond to the king’s invitation? To whom has Jesus made the offer of the kingdom and who rejected it? To what people is Jesus offering the kingdom?

In Matthew 22:11-14, a man came to the party, but found out that he was improperly dressed. This man had offended the king by not putting on the costly dress that the king had provided (the custom). Why then did the king throw the man out? What does this mean to us? What kind of “clothing” should we be trusting in to get us into the “big party in the sky?” (read Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27) Are you wearing the attire that God has supplied or are you trusting in your own “duds” to get you into heaven?



# THE KINGDOM MIND

*Parables of the Kingdom*

2. **THINK AHEAD** (about the Master's Return) Read Matthew 25:1-14 What was the difference between the two sets of virgins in Matthew 25:1-14? Who is the bridegroom that is coming and how are we to be prepared for His coming? Are you ready for the bridegroom to come? Do you have plenty of oil in your lamp? What does a person live like whose "lamp is full"?
  
3. **THINK TRUTH** (about the Master) Read Matthew 25:14-30 (Luke 19:11-27) How did the servants react to the master? Why did the servant who had received the one talent react differently? What was his concept of the master? What did the Master hold each of the servants accountable for? What "talents" has God given you that you need to invest for His kingdom?
  
4. **THINK JUSTLY** (about the Master's Judgment) Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 & 47-49. How many kingdoms are represented in these two parables? What are they? (The "tares" or "weeds" in verses 24-30 refer to a type of weed which looked like wheat as it was growing, and the difference could only be seen in the mature crop.) What do these parables say about God separating between the wicked and the righteous? How can a loving God send anyone to Hell?

# THE KINGDOM MIND

## *Parables of the Kingdom*

5. **THINK BIG!** (about the Master's kingdom) Read Matthew 13:31-33 (Mark 4:26-32; Luke 13:18-22)  
What are the similarities about the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven? What are the differences? How does the kingdom of heaven begin? How does it end? If you truly believe that the kingdom of heaven will expand like the leaven and the mustard seed how will it affect your actions?

6. Each of the parables that we have looked at in this lesson have to do with our thinking about the future kingdom, i.e. spending eternity with Christ as our King. Think through the areas listed below and consider how it affects your decisions about these areas of your life when you consider the truth of God's kingdom and when you just focus on the here and now. (see Matthew 6:19-34)

### Areas of Life

- Career
- Relationships
  - Family
  - Dating
  - Marriage
  - Children
  - Friends
  - Fellowship
- Money
- Possessions
- Talents & Abilities
- Time
- 

### Kingdom Focus

### Here and Now Focus

# THE KINGDOM MIND

*Parables of the Kingdom*

7. Jim Elliot, a missionary murdered by the South American Indians he was trying to reach with the gospel once said “He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” What do you think Jim meant by this statement?

## THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# POWER IN THE KINGDOM

“Human beings hunger for power. German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche argued that this hunger is the essence of our humanity...Nietzsche claimed that more basic than all other human needs is the craving to control one’s own destiny, to be free to realize one’s full potential without restraints from anyone. To be free from all limitations, to transcend the proscriptions of society and God, and to shrug off responsibility for others if such responsibility interferes with personal goals is, according to Nietzsche, what every person naturally craves. He rejected any notion of a God, because he could not tolerate the thought of anyone more powerful than himself..

Nietzsche clearly saw the hunger for power as anti-Christian. Consequently, he declared that Christianity should be abolished because it asks people to surrender to God, to render themselves as weak vessels to the Lord, and to reject attempts to exercise power over others. Nietzsche understood more clearly than most Christians that there is something about craving power which cannot be reconciled with the Christian lifestyle. He knew that Christ’s call to servanthood and humility precludes all power games, and that Christ asks us to live contrary to our true nature. In short, to be coercive and Christian at the same time is impossible.”

*Anthony Campolo Jr. • The Power Delusion pages 10,11*

1. Look at the following passages. What are the attributes of those who are the greatest and those who are the least in God’s kingdom?

Passage	The Greatest	The Least
Matthew 5:19		
Matthew 18:1-5		
Matthew 20:20-28		
Matthew 23:11,12		
Mark 9:33-37		
John 3:30		
John 13:16		

2. Read Luke 22:24-30. What were the disciples arguing about? What was it that the kings of the Gentiles had or possessed that the disciples wanted? How does Jesus define greatness in His kingdom? What will the greatest in the kingdom do?

# POWER IN THE KINGDOM

3. Look at James 2:1-5. What does this passage say about judging by external appearances to determine the value of people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read I Samuel 16:1-7. In this passage, the prophet Samuel has gone to Jesse's house to anoint the new king, who is one of Jesse's sons. What kind of man is Samuel looking for? What is God looking for in people? Why did God choose David to be king? (see Acts 13:22)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In Acts 13:22 God gives His testimony about David. What do you think is God's testimony about you? Does God see you as a person who is after His heart and who will do all his will? What can you do to become more a person like David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In our society who has the 'power'? In Christ's kingdom how is this different? How should I live as a member of Christ's kingdom in a society that has a different even opposite power structure?



# POWER IN THE KINGDOM

7. Read Mark 10:35-45. Look at verse 45. For what reason(s) did Jesus come? For what reason did Jesus not come? Analyze your involvement in Christ's kingdom. In these areas of your life; what are you doing to serve rather than waiting for someone to serve you?

Activity	What do you do? (Give examples)	
	If I serve 1st:	If I wait to be served:
School		
Living situation		
Family		
The Navigator fellowship		
Those who don't know Christ yet.		
Church		
Your job		
Friends		

8. What can you do to become 'greater by becoming lesser' in each of these areas?

# THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# KINGDOM LAWS

Every kingdom has laws and Christ's kingdom is no exception. In this study, we'll be looking at what has been called the Sermon on the Mount to discover the laws of Christ's kingdom.

"The Sermon on the Mount is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed. It is the nearest thing to a manifesto that he ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and do. To my mind no two words sum up its intention better, or indicate more clearly its challenge to the modern world, than the expression 'Christian counter-culture'. . . Here is a Christian value-system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, life-style and network of relationships—all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world. And this Christian counter-culture is the life of the kingdom of God, a fully human life indeed but lived out under divine rule."

*John R. W. Stott • Christian Counter-Culture - The Message of the Sermon on the Mount -pages 15,19*

1. **The Kingdom Within-** Read Matthew 5:1-12 From verses 1,2 who was the audience for this teaching and is there any significance to this? To be 'blessed' as used in verse 3-12 is MAKARIOS in Greek, which does not denote one who God blesses but rather someone who is to be congratulated, someone whose place in life is an enviable one.

- What does it mean to be 'poor in spirit'?
- What is mourning? Why are those who mourn 'blessed'?
- What does it mean to be meek? What do we gain by being meek?
- How does a person demonstrate a deep hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- What is mercy? In what practical ways can we show mercy to others?

# KINGDOM LAWS

## 1. The Kingdom Within- (continued)

- What is the benefit of having a pure heart? How do you maintain a pure heart?
- What does it mean to be a peacemaker? Share a possible way that a believer could be a peacemaker.
- What is your initial reaction to persecution? What is the blessing in being persecuted? What does it mean to be persecuted 'because of righteousness'?
- How do these characteristics of a 'kingdom person' differ from the type of person exalted in our society?

## 2. The Kingdom Coming Out- Read Matthew 5:13-16 In these verses Jesus uses two metaphors to depict the Christian's influence on society.

- What are the functions of salt and light?
- What does it mean in the spiritual sense for Christ's followers to be salt and light?
- What happens if we don't fulfill our role as salt and light?

# KINGDOM LAWS

3. **Old Law and the New Law-** Read Matthew 5:17-20 How does Jesus' law (the law of the kingdom) relate to the Old Testament law? In verse 20 how does the true Christian's righteousness surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees?

4. **The Surpassing Righteousness-** Read Matthew 5:21-48. Contrast Jesus' righteousness (kingdom law) with the Pharisees' righteousness from this passage.

**Passage**

EXAMPLE- Matthew 5:21-26

Matthew 5:27-30

Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 5:38-42

Matthew 5:43-48

**Pharisee's Righteousness**

- Do not murder

**Jesus' Righteousness**

- Do not be angry
- Do not curse

What is the difference between Jesus' righteousness and the Pharisees' righteousness?

# KINGDOM LAWS

5. Read Matthew 6. Look at these verses in particular to answer the following questions.  
(verses 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 26, 32)

- What do these verses say about our relationship to God as our Father?
- How does living with God as our Father differ from living as the hypocrites do? (see verses 2, 5, 16)

6. Consider Matthew 6:19-7:23 In these verses, Jesus contrasts two radically different ways of living. What is valuable to the person of the world and what is valuable to the citizen of the kingdom?

**World Values**

**Kingdom Values**

# KINGDOM LAWS

7. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is similar between the wise and foolish builders? What things are different between them? What happens to each of them under pressure? What kind of person does Jesus equate the wise builder with? How about the foolish builder?

Look back at one of the passages you studied in Matthew 5 or 6. Write out what the foolish person would do in response to the passage and what a wise person would do. What will you do in response to what God has spoken to you about from these passages?

# THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*Spiritual Warfare*

“It was a sad day for Adam, and for the rest of us, when his comfortable life in the Garden of Eden came to a sudden end. Though Adam was created to have dominion, his choice to disobey God changed everything. His status as royalty over God’s creation was lost, and he became a bond-slave of sin and a wage-earner on Satan’s terms. By his act of disobedience Adam yielded his kingship to Satan, who from then on claimed the dominion offered by man’s disobedience and became ‘the prince of this world.’ In Eden God decreed enmity between the serpent’s seed and the seed of the woman. Because of this, the law of strife became the law of life for the human race. Hereafter the sinister eye of the deceiver would be on perpetual alert for evidences of the arrival of the Seed in order to lay plans to prevent the coming of this one who was to crush his head.

In the fulness of God’s time the Lord Jesus Christ, the Seed of the woman and the eternal Son of God, was born. As the Son of Man on earth, Jesus was no mere civilian passively suffering the attacks and harassment of Satan. He was the Pioneer and Captain of our salvation, the original Soldier of the Cross, pressing forward along the lonely road to victory through the sufferings of death. Nailing his feet to that Cross could not prevent Him from crushing Satan’s head beneath his heel. And with His nail-pierced hands He tore off from Himself the evil powers that attempted to prevent Him from ascending to the throne.

... However, the implication of that victory over the powers of evil and its application in the world of men is now in the hands of the Church on earth. Consequently, the bitter enmity of Satan is now directed against the Church in order to vent his spleen against the Head through the members of His Body.”

**R. Arthur Matthews • Born for Battle - pages 11,12**

In the Bible the conflict between good and evil is seen as the conflict between two kingdoms... the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world.

1. **THE KINGDOM CONFLICT** • Read Matthew 4:1-11. What is occurring between Jesus and the devil in this passage? What is the devil’s goal in this conflict? What does he do to accomplish this goal?

What is Jesus’ goal in this conflict? What does he do to combat the enemy’s arguments?

Temptation has been defined as ‘a solicitation to do evil.’ Satan tempted Jesus in what three areas?

How can we follow Christ’s example to be victorious over temptation?



# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*Spiritual Warfare*

2. **THE KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT FROM THE BEGINNING** • Read Genesis 3:1-19. The serpent is Satan who took this form to tempt Eve (see Revelations 12:9). How did the serpent tempt Eve? What did he say? Was it true? Why did Eve believe the serpent? (see II Corinthians 11:3) What had God commanded Adam? (see Genesis 2:15-17) Why did Adam disobey God? What were the results of Adam and Eve's sin for them? What were the results for us? (see Romans 5:12) What was the judgement for the serpent?
  
3. **THE KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** The continuing warfare between God's people, the children of Israel, and their enemies was not only a physical struggle but ultimately a spiritual one. There are many examples of this spiritual struggle throughout the Old Testament. Let's look at one of them:
  - Read I Kings 18:16-40. God's people had gone astray and were following other gods, particularly Baal (the Caananite god of rain and fertility). They were led in this apostasy by the wicked king Ahab and his even more wicked wife Jezebel. Elijah issues a challenge to 850 prophets of Baal. They pray to their gods, and Elijah prays to the Lord. What is the result of the conflict? What is Elijah's challenge to God's people? (verse 21) How do God's people respond when they see who is God? (verse 39-40) When the prophets of Baal pray to their gods, who are they praying to ultimately? (see I Corinthians 10:19-21)

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*Spiritual Warfare*

4. **THE KINGDOMS IN THE GOSPELS** • Read Mark 3:22-27. What were the teachers of the law saying about Jesus because he had power over the kingdom of evil? What is Jesus' response to this accusation? Who is the strong man in Jesus' illustration (verse 27)? What are the possessions that the robber is taking away? Who is the robber? For help in answering this question see Colossians 1:13-14.
5. **THE KINGDOMS IN THE EPISTLES** • Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What kingdom were we a part of before coming to know Christ? (see also John 8:42-47) What kingdom have we been transferred to as a result of coming to know Christ? (Ephesians 2:4-7 and Colossians 1:13)
6. **THE KINGDOMS AT THE END** • Read Revelation 12:7-11. What is the ultimate end of Satan's kingdom?

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*Spiritual Warfare*

7. Look at Ephesians 6:10-20. Look at the weapons below that God has supplied for the believer for our battle against the enemy. Consider each piece of the armor and how we can practically put on the armor to prepare ourselves for spiritual battle.

## **Armor**

## **How do you put it on?**

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Gospel shoes
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Faith
- Sword of the Spirit
- Prayer (verse 18)

8. As you looked at the pieces of spiritual armor, which one or two do you need to be more effective with? What can you do to become a better spiritual warrior in Christ's kingdom?

# THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*World Values vs. Kingdom Values*

All over the world, there are many types of people with a variety of belief systems. The beliefs that each person carries flow out of their basic view of ultimate reality. This is what has been called our worldview. There are two basic components of your worldview: 1) your way of thinking about life and the world, and 2) the resulting value system that forms the basis for your lifestyle choices.

As you grapple with your place in the world you must confront three major features of your existence: 1) God—the concept of ultimate reality, 2) humanity—the reality of human existence and your own self-consciousness (as well as that of other persons), and 3) nature—the existence and purpose of the world around you, both physical and spiritual. These upward, inward and outward viewpoints form the basis of your worldview.

## 1. The Upward Viewpoint - Is There a God?

### THE WORLDLY VIEW

- Read Job 21:7-15. What is the attitude of those who do not acknowledge God?
- Read Romans 1:18-32. What are the results in our lives when we refuse to acknowledge the existence of God and our responsibility to Him? Look especially at verses 18, 21, 28 and 32.
- Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-26. What will be the end result of a life that is not given to God?

### THE KINGDOM VIEW

- Read Acts 17:16-34. That was Paul's message to these people who believed in the existence of God?

Was belief in God's existence sufficient to please God? (see verses 30,31)

- Read I Cor 1:18-31. From this passage, what assurance do we have about the significance of our lives as members of Christ's kingdom?

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*World Values vs. Kingdom Values*

## 2. The Inward Viewpoint - Who am I? Who are you?

### THE WORLDLY VIEW

- Read Ephesians 2:1-3, 12. What is our spiritual state when we love the world and its ways rather than God and His ways?

- Read Luke 12:13-21. What is the end result of a life that is given to personal pleasure and possessions?

### THE KINGDOM VIEW

- Read John 17. Look at the following verses (6, 9, 11, 13-16, 18, 21, 23-25). What was Jesus' view of the world? Look at verses 6-19. Highlight or underline every time the words 'they', 'them' or 'those' are used in the passage. Who are 'they'? What commitment does Jesus make to them? If you want to influence people like Jesus did, what should you do?

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*World Values vs. Kingdom Values*

## 3. The Outward Viewpoint - What is real?

### THE WORLDLY VIEW

- Read Luke 12:22-32. From verse 30, what is the pagan world? What is the pagan world running after? What does God promise those who will run after things of the kingdom? (verse 31) What attitudes does the kingdom person have about what he or she owns?

### THE KINGDOM VIEW

- Read Matthew 16:24-27. What is the result of giving your life to material things? What happens if we give our lives to eternal things? What are the eternal things that we should be giving our lives to? See Deut. 33:27, Psalm 145:13, I Peter 1:23-24, Ecclesiastes 3:11.

# KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT

*World Values vs. Kingdom Values*

4. Read Romans 12:1-2. Verse 2 is paraphrased by J.B. Phillips this way: “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed...” Look back over this study and your answers in light of Romans 12:1,2.

- Where has the world been squeezing me into its mold?
- In what ways is God remaking my mind and attitudes in these areas?
- What do I believe is God’s will for me in these areas?
- How will I practically prove to God, myself and others that I am choosing to live by kingdom values rather than the world’s values?

## THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.



# PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

“One person with a belief  
is equal to a force of ninety-nine  
who only have an interest.”

*John Stuart Mill*

One of the best ways to understand the kingdom of God is to look at real people who lived a kingdom lifestyle. In the New Testament, particularly the book of Acts we have the stories of God's people learning to live as people of the kingdom. When we observe their example we discover what it means to be a kingdom person in everyday life.

“The book of Acts gives a balanced picture of the early Christian experience: evangelism and the Church, proclamation and community, witness and fellowship. The two primary concerns of the early church were the proclamation of the gospel and the edification of the Christian community. Evangelism sprang from the community, and the community grew through its witness. Evangelism was not merely something that individual Christians did; rather it was the natural result of the presence and influence of the Christian community in the world. The community gave credibility to the verbal proclamation.”

*Howard A. Snyder • The Community of the King - page 73*

1. Study the following verses. What are the character qualities of a person who reveals through their life that they belong in the kingdom?

•Matthew 5:3

•Matthew 5:10

•Matthew 19:14

•Luke 22:25-29

2. Look at these verses. [I Corinthians 6:9,10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5] What kind of persons reveal through their behavior that they are not part of God's kingdom? If people with these sins in their background cannot enter the kingdom, then who can? What does I Corinthians 6:11 (following I Corinthians 6:9,10) have to say about the acceptability of people into the kingdom who have deep brokenness in their lives because of sin? What is the balance between the exclusiveness of I Corinthians 6:9,10 and the openness of I Corinthians 10:11? Do kingdom citizens (followers of Jesus) have the freedom to live any way they please?

# PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

3. Read about the following kingdom messengers. Who were they and what was their message?

**Person:**

**Message:**

•Acts 14:20-22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23; 28:31

•Acts 1:3; Luke 8:1

•Acts 8:12

Look back over your whole study on the kingdom of God and write out 5-10 things that you believe that these kingdom messengers spoke about when they preached on the kingdom of God.

# PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

4. Look at these kingdom people in the book of Acts. Observe the character of their lives. How did they model kingdom values? Study each individual or group and write out what principle(s) of the kingdom they were living out.

- The church in Jerusalem- Acts 4:32-36

- Barnabas- Acts 4:36,37; 9:26,27; 11:22-30; 13:2

- Stephen- Acts 6:5-15; 7:55-60

- Philip- Acts 8:5-34

- Dorcas- Acts 9:36-42

- Peter- Acts 10

- Lydia- Acts 16:13-15

- The church in Berea- Acts 17:10-12

- Priscilla & Aquila- Acts 18:1-4;18-26

- Apollos- Acts 18:24-28

## PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

5. Think about the followers of Jesus that you know. Write down the name of a brother or sister in Christ and how they model the kingdom of God to you. What do you see in their lives that you would like to imitate? Consider telling them directly or writing them a note to encourage them for being a great example to you.
6. Look back over this study and consider these two questions. What value of the kingdom do you consistently live out in such a way that others can be encouraged by your example? Thank God for this and ask Him to help you to continue to be faithful in this area.

Secondly, what value of the kingdom stands out to you as one that you need to grow in order to be a more mature follower of Jesus? How can you grow in this area? Is there a believer that has a strength in this area that you could consider talking to in order to learn from them?

## THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

Over the course of history many a despot, a dictator, a chief, a ruler, a conqueror, a president or a prime minister has risen to power and gloried in his or her dominion. But all have come and gone either by their own death or at the hand of another of their kind. Man's kingdoms rise and fall, some royal families claiming authority for centuries but still their reigns have been cut short. Man's control of history is relatively short in the face of eternity. This is not true for the eternal kingdom of God.

The establishment of God's kingdom on earth "will bring about sweeping and radical changes in every department of human activity: so far reaching that Isaiah speaks of its arena as a "new earth" (Isaiah 65:17). Every need of humanity will be anticipated and provided for: "Before they call," God says, "I will answer" (Isaiah 65:24). The King and His Kingdom will come down upon the world "like rain upon the mown grass," healing the arid and devastated places of human life (Psalm 72:6). Working through the chosen nation, God will "fill the face of the world with fruit" (Isaiah 27:6). There will be an "abundance of salvation" (literally, "salvations"), so that no legitimate aspect of human life will be left without the regal saving activity (Isaiah 33:6)." *The Greatness of the Kingdom • Alva J. McClain page 217*

1. Look at the following verses. What does God promise about His coming kingdom? Is the kingdom as it is described in these verses a reality today?

•Isaiah 9:7

•Daniel 2:44

•Philippians 2:9-11

2. What do these verses have to say about the endurance of His kingdom?

•Daniel 2:44

•Daniel 4:3

•Daniel 6:26

•II Peter 1:11

•Revelation 11:15

# THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

3. From Matthew 6:10, what did Jesus teach His disciples to pray about the kingdom? Do you pray this way about the kingdom? Why or why not? Do you think Jesus wants you to pray this way? When you make this request of God in prayer what are you asking for? In what way is this whole prayer (Matthew 6:9-15) a kingdom prayer?
  
4. Upon what basis is it decided who gets to be a part of God's eternal kingdom?
  
5. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What does this passage tell us about who will and who will not be a part of God's eternal kingdom? Who are the sheep? Who are the goats? What distinguishes them from one another? Look back at your answer on question 4 (above). How does your answer compare with what Jesus says will be the basis upon which it is decided who is a true member of the kingdom? Is there a difference between your answer and Jesus' answer? How do you reconcile the answers?
  
6. In the book of Revelation John reveals to us the coming of Christ's eternal kingdom in its fullness. In Revelation 1:9, how does John describe himself as he anticipates the eternal kingdom? From Revelation 5:9,10, who will be in the eternal kingdom and what will they do? (Is this all we will do? see Luke 19:11-27) Read Revelation 11:15 and 12:10. What will be the full realization of Christ as King? What comfort and hope does it give you to know that Christ will fully reign as King one day?

# THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

7. Read Acts 1:6,7. After the resurrection, what do the disciples want to know from Jesus about the coming of the kingdom? What is Jesus' answer to their request? What is our focus supposed to be when we consider the imminent coming of the future kingdom? (To answer this read II Peter 3; particularly II Peter 3:11-14) Examine your own life in light of these verses, are you ready for the coming of His kingdom? What needs to change? (see also I John 2:28)

## THY KINGDOM COME

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

The first words of Jesus's public ministry included a quote from Isaiah the prophet that He was anointed "to preach the gospel to the poor." (Luke 4:18-19) In Matthew 4:23, one of the tasks mentioned that Jesus accomplishes is "preaching the 'gospel' of the kingdom. What does this word "gospel" mean? In the New International Version of the Bible, it is translated "good news". The Vines Greek Dictionary of New Testament Words indicates that it denotes "the 'good tidings' of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith on the basis of His expiatory death, His burial, resurrection, and ascension".

## 1. Who proclaims the 'gospel' of the Kingdom in the Old Testament?

- Read Genesis 12:3, Psalm 96:1-10, 145:8-13; Isaiah 12:4-5, 42:5-7, and 49:6. From these passages who or what is on God's heart? Who is God interested in hearing the Gospel of the Kingdom? Were the Gentile nations (including you and I) an afterthought of Jesus's ministry (see Matthew 28:19-20)?
- Read Isaiah 43:1-13 How were the other nations to see God? How were they to hear about God? Who is beautiful or lovely in God's sight? What does God promise to those who are His witnesses?

## 2. Who proclaims the 'gospel' of the Kingdom in the Gospels?

- Read Mark 3:14. Why did Jesus choose the twelve? What was the purpose for twelve being with Jesus? What would they see, hear, and feel as they walked with Him on the roads, ate with Him in homes, and listened to His teaching? (see 1 John 1:1-2)
- Read Luke 10:1-24. Why did Jesus send the seventy out? What were the seventy to do? What did they witness as they went? What did they learn after returning to Jesus? Why were they to consider themselves blessed?



# THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

2. Who proclaims the 'gospel' of the Kingdom in the Gospels? (continued)
  - Read Mark 1:40-45, 5:1-20. What had Jesus done for these people? What motivated them to proclaim the news? Why was the man who had been possessed by a demon told to proclaim Christ and the leper was told not to?
  - Read Matthew 24:14. What is prophesied about the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom? What are the implications of the necessity of world evangelism in this statement?
3. Who proclaims the 'gospel' of the Kingdom in the New Testament?
  - Read Acts 4:13. What stood out about Peter and John? What did the rulers, elders, and teachers of the Law attribute this to? From your study of the kingdom of God do you believe the good news of the kingdom was something that Jesus spoke of consistently? Do you believe the apostles also spoke of it often?
  - Read Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; & 28:23. What was the message of the apostles in Acts? What do you think they preached about the kingdom of God?
  - Read 1 Peter 2:9-11. How do these verses describe God's kingdom people? Why did Peter expect the Christians of the day to proclaim and declare the good news of the kingdom? Is it the role of every believer to proclaim the gospel or is that only for fulltime Christian workers?

# THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

4. It has been said that the fruit of a tree is simply the “overflow, the surplus, the excess life of the nourishment taken into the tree over and beyond that needed for life and growth.”

*Meditation, Jim Downing, Pg 15*

Read Ephesians 1:1-14, 2:1-22; and Colossians 1:13-14, 2:13-14. List ten reasons you have for “declaring the praises of God” to others as mentioned in 1 Peter 2:9.

5. Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, once asked a student who had asked for training in evangelism, “What is your prayer life like? In the light of Mark 3:14 and Acts 4:13, what does your own personal walk with God have to do with evangelism? What needs to occur in your life to ensure that God will honor you with being a messenger of the ‘Gospel of His Kingdom’?”

3. Another possible application for those who are proficient in sharing the gospel. Think through how you would share the gospel using what you have learned about the kingdom. Are there any different verses you would share? Could you modify an illustration that you use to share the gospel or make up a new one? Put this down on paper and ask a nonbelieving friend if you could share it with them and get their feedback.

# THY KINGDOM COME

Record 2 people that you can pray for daily and ask God to provide the opportunity for you share the 'good news of the Kingdom' with them. Share these names with 1 or 2 others in your Bible study and pray together for these friends who need Christ.

As citizens of the kingdom at the close of each study share prayer requests you may have and record them here. Spend some time praying together over these requests.

# WORSHIP THE KING!

“I believe that if we are to be and do for others what God means us to be and do, we must not let adoration and worship slip into second place, ‘for it is the central thing asked by God of human souls, and its neglect is responsible for much lack of spiritual depth and power.’ Perhaps we find here the reason why we so often run dry. We do not give time enough for what makes for depth and so we are shallow; a wind, quite a little wind, can ruffle our surface; a little hot sun and all the moisture in us evaporates. It should not be so.” —Amy Carmichael

Kings and kingdoms are alien concepts to the independent, democratic American mind. In a kingdom there are no checks and balances over the power and control of the government. The king has all authority over the kingdom. All through the Old Testament and throughout world history we see that the character of the king is the number one indication of the moral and spiritual climate of the people. This study will examine the identity of the king, how people responded to the king while he was on earth and how we should respond to the king.

1. This is the last study in this series. Take some time to reflect over the semester and to summarize what you have learned from these studies:

- What is the kingdom?
- Who gets into the kingdom?
- How would you describe the kingdom to a fellow believer?
- How would you describe the kingdom to a person not in the kingdom yet?
- What other thoughts do have about the kingdom?

# WORSHIP THE KING!

2. Write out an answer to both of the following statements and share it with your Bible study.

a. The kingdom of God is...

b. Because of this study I experienced life change in this area...

3. What do these verses tell you about our King?

Isaiah 9:6

Daniel 7:13,14;

Matthew 11:29

Colossians 1:13-18

Revelation 5:6-14

Revelation 11:15-17

Revelation 15:3,4

Revelation 19:11-16

# WORSHIP THE KING!

4. How did the people in the following verses respond to the king?

Isaiah 6:1-5

Matthew 2:1,2

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 7:36-38

Revelation 1:9-19

Worship is literally translated “to kiss towards.” The Greek is pros-kuneó— ‘pros’ means ‘towards’ and ‘kuneó’ is ‘to kiss.’ It is used of an act of homage or reverence.

5. What are the different forms of worship found in the following verses?

Psalms 46:10

Psalms 33:8

Psalms 5:7

Psalms 51:17

Psalms 42:1,2

Psalms 147:1

Psalms 30:11

Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of his worth. —John Piper

# WORSHIP THE KING!

6. Look at Revelation 4:11 & 5:9,10. Another way of defining worship is 'worth-ship' i.e. praising God for His worthiness. Why is Jesus 'worthy' to be your king?
  
7. As a way of expressing your praise to Christ as the King of the kingdom do something this week to honor Him for His worthiness. Consider writing a song, a poem, a story, a play, draw or paint a picture, make a collage etc. to express your worship to Him. Think about it this way, if you had two minutes to present something to Jesus as a present that was uniquely from you what would you do? Our year end Christmas party (A Birthday Party for the King) will give many the opportunity to present to Jesus these gifts of worship to Him. Many would be blessed if you would share with them your gift for the king by coming prepared to share it at the Christmas party.

# EVALUATION

To help us in writing Bible studies in the future please give us some feedback on this study.

1. What did you like about this study?
2. What did you dislike about the study?
3. What would you change about the study?
4. What you keep in the study?
5. Any other comments/suggestions?