

WONDERS

Title: **THE WONDERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

Date: APRIL 7, 2024

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or

Online home gatherings (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: Matthew 4:23-25 NLT

Key Verse: v.23 *"Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness."*

Intro: Jesus' purpose for coming to us was not to create a new religion but to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth. So, it's crucial to understand the concept of what the Kingdom of God is and how it manifests its wonders on earth.

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

Q: Growing up, have you been fascinated about castles and kingdoms? Did you have dreams of being a "princess," a "prince" etc.?

Q: What is your idea when you hear the phrase, the "Kingdom of God?"

WORD (30–45 mins) What is the Kingdom of God about?

1. The Kingdom of God is the reign of God embodied in the person of Jesus Christ –

As King, Jesus personifies all that the Kingdom of God stands for. After His forty-day fast, Jesus preached that all should repent because the Kingdom of Heaven is near. This means that the perfect rule of God that is happening in heaven is now present on earth through Him.

When Pilate inquired of Jesus whether He was the King of the Jews, Jesus responded with a much higher kingship. *"Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."*

John 18:36 NLT

Jesus came to rescue us from the kingdom of darkness. *"For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins."* Colossians 1:13 NLT

Discussion Questions:

Q: Have you surrendered your life to Christ 100%? When did you make the commitment to make Him reign in your heart, fully acknowledging Him as King in your life?

Q: How do you feel about being a son or daughter of the King of Kings?

Q: What positive changes in your life (in your relationships with others, in your perspective in life, etc.) has taken place since you acknowledged Jesus as King of your life?

Continuation:

2. The Kingdom of God possesses a distinct culture when compared to the world –

v.23 - *“Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom.”*

Jesus came to teach kingdom principles to enable us change the way we think. He came to bring God's rule into our hearts and minds and see it manifested on earth.

The famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), which followed our text, presented the Kingdom mindset that should guide the conduct of its citizens. We are to embrace this kingdom mindset so that we can live our lives different from others.

Q: How easy or difficult for you to obey the following: love our enemies, bless those who curse you?

Q: What change of attitude or perspective impacted you from this passage Matthew 5:21-48?

Such attitudes and behaviors demonstrate to the world that we are indeed children of God. The teachings of Christ are the constitution of God's Kingdom on earth leading to a distinct culture that contrasts with that of the world.

-A truly surrendered person to Christ will display the culture of God's Kingdom. It begins when we get born again. We cannot see the Kingdom unless we have spiritual birth. **Read John 3:1-6**

Q: What area of our lives we think is not yet under His rulership?

3. The Kingdom of God comes with miraculous signs and wonders – Read Matthew 10:7-10 NLT

Jesus went about proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and miraculous signs and wonders followed. So did His disciples. One of the signs that revealed that the reign of God is near was the manifestations of divine authority and power. Miracles were all over the place. As Kingdom citizens, reigning as kings with Him on earth, we are blessed to be His vessels of His glory and power. We must always be ready to be instrumental in God performing His wonders on earth through us.

Q: When was the last time you experienced a divine miracle over your life (physical, emotional, mental, financial, etc.)?

Q: Have you been a vessel or instrument of miracle over someone's life? In what way?

Q: What manifestation of miracle has God allowed you to witness or experience through the years of following Christ?

Conclusion: Read Matthew 4:23-25 NLT

The ultimate way to honor Jesus on earth is by displaying His rule through our godly attitudes, behavior, and the miracles He desires to perform through us. As we undergo transformation in our minds to resemble Christ more closely, the world will witness Christ's character, authority, and power at work in us.

God wants to use our testimonies of His wonders to win many people to come to Christ. Let us continue to allow His reign into our lives that will lead to the manifestation of God's glory that will impact the people and the world around us.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, **“what can I pray for you?”**

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group of your next gathering and ask them to invite a friend.
2. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.
3. Assign someone to share from his/her devotion to the group next week. (min. of 5mins.)