Study Guide

Yours is the Kingdom

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of what we want to walk away from the discussion with —knowing, feeling and doing.

MAIN IDEA: God has sovereign authority over all things and is infinitely sufficient to execute it so that His glory to mankind is revealed.

> **Head change:** To understand that acknowledging God's wisdom, knowledge, goodness and power is not the same as submitting to it.
> **Heart change:** To keep our hearts, motives, desires and even our prayers focused on God and the building of His Kingdom.
> **Life change:** To live our daily lives in the light of eternity, viewing even our worries and anxieties through the lens of divine purpose.

OPEN

What images does the word 'kingdom' evoke? If you're artistically inclined, you could attempt to draw this kingdom. What are some truths that go with belonging to a kingdom? What do you think God's kingdom will look like?

Life is transient and fleeting. We know this truth in our hearts, and yet, faced with the immediacy of our lives, we live as though everything is permanent. If we were to live every day with one eye on eternity, how different our decisions would be!

In this final session, Ranjit leaves us with this last phrase of Jesus, which is a powerful reminder that sets right our perspectives—this life is not about our kingdom, our power or our glory.

As you watch, write down how Ranjit David answers these questions.

How do these concluding thoughts fit in with the overall theme and structure of the Lord's prayer? Why is this significant?

What are the three attributes of God that are captured by the concluding phrase?

What are the two practical ways in in which this phrase helps us?

What is the final impact that Jesus' model prayer should leave us with?

WATCH

SESSION 8: *Thine is the Kingdom* (8 minutes)

REVIEW

Jesus uses the word kingdom twice in His prayer. Whose kingdom does He say it is? How would internalizing this truth change the way you live?

What are the three prayers that Jesus teaches us to make for ourselves? Reflect how this prayer is different from the prayers you generally make for yourself? What do you think Jesus is trying to tell His disciples and us?

What would be the difference in acknowledging God's sovereignty, wisdom and power and submitting to it? In what way would doing the latter change the way you approach life?

What does the phrase "rest for your heart" mean to you? Is your heart at rest? What are some active ways in which you can ensure that your heart is at rest? Does active pursuit of rest of heart seem a contradiction?

Explain the word focus in your own words? What are some prerequisites for remaining focused? What happens when you focus on something? What is your focus today? How does it align with God's kingdom?

Ranjit notes that very often we approach prayer as though it is to tell God what it is that we want from Him. However, prayer is not so much about changing our circumstances as about changing our selves. Can you think of a time when prayer did ***not*** change the circumstance but it helped you view things anew? What bigger lesson did you learn about God through this?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:21, Matthew 5:19, Matthew 4:17, Matthew 25: 1—13. Does everyone get into the kingdom of God? What are some things that are expected from those who want to enter God's kingdom?

What are we to seek? What is promised to those who seek?

Who is called least and great in God's kingdom? How does this align with our understanding of least and great?

Discuss: Does the Kingdom of God refer to a specific time in the future?

Matthew 19:14, 1 Corinthians 6:9—10, Mark 2:13—17. Jesus says that the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children. What do you think He meant? What qualities of a child would qualify them for heaven?

Who is excluded from the kingdom of God? Contrast this with Jesus actively seeking out the sinners. What are your thoughts about this seeming contradiction?

Do you think the Kingdom is a literal place? How do Jesus' words seek to build His kingdom on earth?

LAST WORD

That the Lord's prayer should begin and end with the kingdom of God is no coincidence. Though we tend to approach prayer as a wish list of sorts, the true purpose of prayer is to connect us with God and His Kingdom. Presenting our petitions do have a definite place in our prayer lives, but according to Jesus, the bigger purpose of prayer is to know and love God more, co-partnering with Him as He establishes His Kingdom on earth.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete.

Memorize: Commit 1 Corinthians 4:20 to memory.

Read: Read Matthew 5: 3—10. Better known as the Beatitudes, Matthew 5 gives us some pointers about Kingdom standards. What aspect of the Kingdom vision seems most appealing to you and why?

Journal: Without referring to your notes, write down some of the highlights of this study. How has it changed the way you view God and yourself? What are some ways in which God is directing you or speaking to you to live it out?

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