



Discussion Guide  
Your Kingdom Come – Part 1  
LEADER GUIDE

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*Hey small group leaders! This week we started a short series (2 weeks) leading us into the upcoming election. Amid a divided political landscape, "Your Kingdom Come" will challenge us to live out the values of Christ's Kingdom. We'll explore how the Beatitudes guide us to reflect God's love, pursue justice, and embody the gospel beyond the realm of earthly politics.*

*Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!*

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

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**"As a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world going to heaven;  
you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world."**

[Vance Havner]

**LEADER RESOURCES || [Leader Note](#)** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **[Passage Summary](#)**
  - This is the opening section of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus beautifully describes WHO the Kingdom is available to and HOW God extends His Kingdom. He begins by pronouncing blessings on people who embody kingdom values, which contrast with worldly success, but lead to spiritual reward. Jesus then uses the metaphors of salt and light to describe the role of His followers in the world.
- **[Matthew 5 Commentary](#) & [The Beatitudes Overview](#)**
  - Use this commentary and Bible Project resource for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before and/or after you gather.

**ENGAGE & CONNECT || [Leader Note](#)** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

How has someone been a source of God's light to you recently?

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER || [Leader Note](#)** *Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"But [we are different, because] our citizenship is in heaven. And from there we eagerly await [the coming of] the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"*

[Philippians 3:20, Amplified]

**BIG IDEA || Leader Note** *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

For those who are Christ-followers, worldly politics is subordinate to the Kingdom of Jesus, which is of ultimate importance.

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note** *Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!*

*Have someone read aloud Matthew 5:1-16. Consider having another person read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation.*

1. In the sermon we heard, *"When we make ultimate something of lesser importance, we'll sin to protect or promote it."* How have you seen that to be true in your own life? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. Who did Jesus address as he began speaking? What are the Beatitudes (v. 3-12)? *Jesus addressed His disciples, but the larger crowd is also present, suggesting the message is for anyone who seeks to follow Him. The Beatitudes are a series of blessings that describe the attitudes and conditions of those who are blessed in God's Kingdom. They focus on qualities like humility, mercy, and purity of heart, showing that God's Kingdom is extended to those who live counter to worldly values.*
3. Why do you think Jesus begins by focusing on the "poor in spirit," the mourners, and the meek? *Jesus focuses on these to emphasize that God's Kingdom is not for the self-sufficient or powerful by worldly standards, but for those who recognize their need for God. The poor in spirit, mourners, and meek are open to God's grace because they are aware of their limitations and rely on Him for strength and comfort.*
4. Jesus says the "meek" (the humble) will inherit the earth. How can Christians who practice humility contrast with society's view of power? *Meekness involves strength under control, humility, and a willingness to submit to God's will. In daily life, this could mean responding to conflict with patience, serving others without seeking recognition, or surrendering personal rights for the sake of peace. This contrasts with society's view of power, which often values aggression and dominance.*
5. How can you extend mercy in challenging situations and/or to difficult people in your life? Be specific! *Mercy could be seen in forgiveness, acts of compassion, or in refraining from judgment. Extending mercy in challenging situations involves seeing others through God's eyes, offering grace instead of retribution, and seeking reconciliation. It requires humility and a deep understanding of God's mercy toward us.*
6. Jesus says the "pure in heart" will see God. What distractions or idols might be clouding your vision of God? How can you pursue purity of heart in your daily walk with Christ? *Distractions could include materialism, career ambitions, or even personal relationships that take precedence over God. Pursuing purity of heart involves regular self-examination, repentance, and refocusing on God's will. Practices like prayer, Scripture meditation, and simplifying life can help remove distractions.*
7. What does it mean for us to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" today? How can we, as a small group, be a "city on a hill" in our local context? *Being "salt" means preserving goodness and promoting righteousness in a decaying world, while being "light" refers to revealing truth and reflecting God's love in a darkened world. Answers will vary: by living out the values of the Kingdom in visible ways that draw others to Christ; intentional service projects, fostering unity in diversity, or addressing*

*local needs with compassion and grace; being a witness through both words and actions.*

8. As Christians, our primary citizenship is in God's Kingdom, not an earthly nation. How does this perspective affect how we can engage with politics and societal issues? *Understanding our primary citizenship as being in God's Kingdom allows us to engage with politics and societal issues from a place of peace and humility, not fear or division. It reminds us that no political system or leader can fully represent God's reign, so we must prioritize Biblical values and justice over partisan loyalty.*
9. In the sermon we heard, "*The Beatitudes articulate the radical inclusivity, amazing availability, and overflowing abundant goodness of the Kingdom.*" How can you reflect that inclusivity, availability, and goodness in your relationships, especially with those who are different from you? *Reflecting God's inclusive, available, and good Kingdom involves being open to diverse perspectives, welcoming people from different backgrounds, and demonstrating love to those on the margins of society. This could look like inviting others into your home, participating in outreach efforts, or being intentional about breaking down social and racial barriers.*
10. What is one area in your life where you feel God calling you to shine brighter as His "light"? How can your actions glorify God in that specific context? *Answers will vary: whether it's in the family, workplace, or friendships, God often calls us to stand out by our integrity, kindness, or willingness to serve. Group members can share how they sense God prompting them to take a bolder stand for their faith in these areas, letting their actions point others toward God.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

The Church is **a Kingdom outpost, a preview, and a working model** of what is to come ... and the best is yet to come! Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take? Here are a few additional questions to consider ...

- How is God inviting you to be an AMBASSADOR of the Kingdom through *sacrificial love*?
- How can you be *more faithful* in the way that you REPRESENT King Jesus?

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.*

**PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

### **Representing King Jesus**

- Let's reflect for a moment on the incredible truth that the Church is not just a building or an institution, but a Kingdom outpost. Through us, God reveals glimpses of His future reign of justice, love, and peace. Though we live in a broken world, the fullness of God's Kingdom will one day be realized. Until then, we have the privilege of representing Him here on earth!
- As we pray, let's ask God to empower us to live as faithful ambassadors of His Kingdom, embodying His love, unity, and grace in all we do. Let's also rejoice in the hope that what we experience now is just a foretaste of the glory that is to come.

**PRAYER FOR VOTING || Leader Note** We wanted to provide a short prayer to encourage one another as we consider our privilege of voting. If you find this helpful, or pray through it together over the next 2 weeks or share it with your group after you gather.

Daniel 2:21 tells us, “He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings.” If we believe this truth, then we can **confidently rest and rejoice** in the sovereignty of God! Here is a prayer that reminds us of a few important things: 1) The Church is to be engaged, but not consumed with politics. 2) Voting is an honor, a privilege, and a way of doing good. 3) Voting is a matter of conscience, not a marker of salvation or unity.

*Gracious Father,*

*Thank you for the freedoms I enjoy as an American citizen. Help me not to take for granted the beautiful privilege of participating in the election of our government officials. You are the sovereign One who rules and reigns over all nations and kingdoms, so I trust your Spirit to grant me humility and wisdom as I vote in this coming election season.*

*I ask that you would give me godly conviction and discernment as I vote on leaders and important issues. As I cast my vote, remind me afresh that my ultimate allegiance and identity do not lie with any political candidate or party, but with you alone Lord Jesus.*

*As I leave the voting booth, allow me to rest in your good purposes and perfect plans for our country, leaders, communities, and families, whatever the election outcomes. I pray these things boldly in the powerful name of our risen and reigning King Jesus Christ. Amen.*

(Adapted from Faith Co/Op’s “The Posture of Our Politics” Prayer Guide)