

“The Kingdom”

Week 4 – Priceless Treasure

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: WOULD YOU RATHER? Create index cards with valuable items. These might include a dream house, vehicles, shopping sprees, vacations, jewelry, clothes, etc. Be specific. Make twice as many cards as group members. Put the cards face down in a pile and ask people to draw one card. Have people trade dreams with others, or with the pile. Discuss results.

word & application

What is so valuable about God’s Kingdom? Why should we want to be part of it?

The Kingdom is a treasure:

Matthew 13:44-46

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!”

Jesus describes the kingdom like we might describe investing in today’s gold market. While most people would agree that gold is of great value as it is, when we look at daily market values we see little growth or even some loss in the short term. But the historic growth in value for gold over my lifetime alone has been 995%. WOW!!! (*Don’t run out and buy gold based on this – there have been periods of loss as well*).

Jesus likens the Kingdom to sacrificing our accumulated wealth to obtain something more valuable. This begs the question – **What’s so valuable about the Kingdom of God?**

Jesus revealed this in His ministry on Earth – healing, forgiveness, wisdom, power over the spirit world, power over the physical world, power to rise from the dead!!! He spoke about eternal life with God, paradise after death, and peace in our lives until then. **THESE are things the Kingdom of God brings!**

Group Discussion: Explore these points and questions through in-depth conversation.

1. The word “kingdom” in Greek is, “**basileia**”, and literally translates as “**royal power and dominion.**”
2. If “Kingdom” refers to power, and Jesus said in Mark 1:15 that the **Kingdom of God has been joined with you**, what does that speak to us about God’s purpose for our Christian lives?

Getting Personal: Share how these ideas affect you personally

- What is the Holy Spirit revealing to me through the scriptures and discussion?
- Are my personal beliefs being challenged by this? Where could I grow as a result of this?
- What am I going to do about it?

prayer

Ask members to shape their prayer requests to align with the principles above. Discuss how we might pray if we truly believe God’s power has been joined with us here on Earth. This might be awkward at first, but lean into it. Pray over needs from a point of powerful belief that Jesus will answer, just like He demonstrated during His earthly life and ministry.