



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“What is the Kingdom of Heaven? - Part 2”

Icebreaker

If Jesus walked into the room right now and you had one question to ask him before he left, what would it be? Why that question?

Key Scripture

Matthew 6:9–10 CSB

“Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
your name be honored as holy.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Main Takeaways

1. The Kingdom of Heaven Is a Person, Place, and Power Jesus himself is the kingdom. When he shows up, the kingdom is present. The kingdom is also a place and a power, the same word used when Jesus said “the kingdom of God has come upon you” after healings and miracles.
2. The Kingdom Is Near, Not Only Future Both John the Baptist and Jesus opened their ministries with the same declaration: the kingdom of God has come near. It is not something to wait passively for but something to participate in actively today.
3. The Lord's Prayer Is a Commission, Not a Wish “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is not a passive request for God to fix things later. It is a parallelism: the kingdom comes when God's will is done, beginning in our own lives.
4. Obedience Is How the Kingdom Advances Every act of obedience, in the home, the workplace, and private moments, brings a piece of the kingdom into the world. The kingdom does not advance only from stages and platforms but from quiet, daily faithfulness when no one is watching but God.

5. Listening to God Is Essential Jesus himself rose early to seek the Father and receive the agenda for his day. If the Son of God prioritized this kind of listening, how much more do we need it as ordinary men and women?

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Kingdom

- The podcast established that the kingdom of heaven is a person, a place, and a power. In your own words, what does each of those three things mean? Which one is most surprising or challenging to you personally?
- Both John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-2 and Jesus in Mark 1:14-15 opened their ministries by declaring that the kingdom of God had come near. Why do you think this was the central message of both men? What does it tell us about what God considers most important?
- Pastor Robby described how the disciples, even after three years with Jesus, after the resurrection, and after 40 days of post-resurrection teaching, still asked Jesus when he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. Why do you think it was so hard for them to understand what kind of kingdom Jesus was building? In what ways do we make the same mistake today?
- Jesus responded to the disciples' question about the kingdom by telling them it was not for them to know the times or periods set by the Father, but that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. What does this tell us about where our focus and energy should be directed?

The Lord's Prayer as a Call to Action

- Pastor Robby shared that he used to pray "your kingdom come, your will be done" as a passive prayer, essentially asking God to come fix everything while he sat back and waited. Can you relate to that? How has your understanding of that prayer changed, or how does this teaching challenge the way you currently pray it?
- The key insight from the podcast is this parallelism: the kingdom comes when God's will is done, in our lives, in our homes, in our workplaces. What is one area of your life right now where submitting to God's will could be a way of actively ushering in the kingdom?
- Pastor Robby gave very concrete examples of how the kingdom advances through ordinary obedience, treating a spouse with respect, telling the truth at work, resisting temptation in private moments. Do these examples feel significant to you, or does part of you feel like they are too small to matter? Where does that feeling come from?

The Book of Acts and the Kingdom Message

- The book of Acts begins and ends with the kingdom of God as its central theme. Paul, even while under house arrest chained to a Roman guard, spent his time proclaiming the kingdom and writing letters that became a significant portion of our New Testament. What does Paul's example say about the relationship between our circumstances and our ability to advance the kingdom?

- Pastor Robby said that a preoccupation with end times chronology and prediction actually works against the words of Jesus, who told his disciples it was not for them to know the times or periods. Do you agree with that? How do you think a healthy, balanced view of the future and eternity should shape the way we live today?
- The podcast pointed out that the book of Acts is more accurately described as the Acts of the Holy Spirit than the Acts of the Apostles, because the Spirit is the active agent throughout. How does recognizing the Holy Spirit as the one doing the work change the way you think about your own role in advancing the kingdom?

Listening to the Father

- Pastor Robby described Jesus rising early in the morning to go to a solitary place and pray, and suggested that Jesus spent more time listening than talking during those times, receiving the Father's agenda for the day. What does your own prayer life look like in terms of the balance between talking and listening?
- He described a "pre-porch Robby" who led by intellect, strategy, and ingenuity, and a "post-porch Robby" who leads by listening to God first. Have you experienced a similar shift in your own life? What prompted it, or what do you think might need to change to get there?
- The podcast touched on the idea of doing a personal inventory, identifying patterns of struggle, loss, or sin in your life so that you can address root causes rather than just symptoms. Have you ever done something like this? What did you discover, or what might you be afraid to discover?

Closing Prayer

Ask God to help each person in the group stop waiting for the kingdom to arrive and start living as though it is already near, because according to Jesus, it is. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be the active agent in each person's daily life, and for the courage to submit to God's will in the small, unseen moments that shape who we are.