



“Your Kingdom” - Discussion Guide

Pastor Todd delivered a message on pursuing God's kingdom as part of the 'Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done' series. He emphasized that the kingdom of God is not a future destination but a present reality we live in today. The core struggle is between God's reign and our desire for control over our own lives. Todd challenged the congregation to examine their prayer life as a litmus test for kingdom alignment, noting how often prayers focus on 'me' rather than God's purposes. He explained that pursuing God's kingdom means finding where He is at work and joining in, rather than asking God to bless our own plans and agendas.

Intro Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Holy Spirit's leading and to hear Your voice clearly. We pray that through our discussion, You would reveal areas in our lives where we need to surrender more control to You and align ourselves more fully with Your kingdom purposes. Guide our conversation and help us to encourage one another in our faith journey. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker:

What's one thing you've had to learn to do differently as an adult that you thought you had figured out as a child or teenager?

Key Verses:

Matthew 6:9-11

Luke 17:20-21

Colossians 1:13

Matthew 6:33

Questions:

Todd mentioned that our prayer life can be a 'litmus test' for understanding God's kingdom. How would you describe the focus of your current prayer life - is it more centered on your needs or God's purposes?

What does it mean to you that 'the kingdom of God is in the midst of you' rather than something we wait for in the future?

Todd talked about the tension between pursuing God's kingdom while living in this earthly kingdom. What are some specific areas where you feel this tension most strongly?

In what ways might you be unconsciously building your own kingdom rather than pursuing God's kingdom?

How do you think your values, priorities, and decisions would change if you fully embraced that you're living under God's kingdom right now?

Todd mentioned choosing faithfulness over success, obedience over comfort, and integrity over influence.

Which of these choices is most challenging for you personally?

What does it look like practically to 'find where God is at work and join in' in your daily life?

How can we as a group encourage each other to surrender control to God in areas where we've been holding on tightly?



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Life Application:

This week, identify one specific area where you've been maintaining control rather than surrendering to God's kingdom. It could be related to your values (what shapes you most), priorities (where you spend your time and energy), or decisions (how you choose to respond in situations). Practice daily surrender in this area by asking God each morning to help you align this part of your life with His kingdom purposes rather than your own preferences.

Key Takeaways:

The kingdom of God is not a future destination but a present reality we live in today

Our prayer life serves as a litmus test for whether we're pursuing God's kingdom or our own

The greatest competition to God's kingdom is not good versus evil, but our desire to rule our own lives

Kingdom alignment requires examining our values, priorities, and decisions to see if they honor God

Pursuing God's kingdom means finding where He is at work and joining in, rather than asking Him to bless our plans

Ending Prayer:

Father God, thank You for this time of discussion and reflection. We acknowledge that You are King and we are not. Help us to live out what we've talked about today, surrendering the areas of our lives where we've been holding onto control. Give us the courage to choose faithfulness over success, obedience over comfort, and Your kingdom over our own preferences. As we go into this week, may Your kingdom come and Your will be done in our hearts, our families, and our community. Transform us to be people who truly seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.