



ANN ARBOR  
CHURCH

# THE KINGDOM

Purpose:

- To understand the role of the church within the Kingdom of God

## WHAT IS A KINGDOM?

- Anywhere ruled by a King
  - Historically, Kings had absolute authority over the territory they ruled- their will was final and absolute.
  - In the time of Jesus- this power was in the hands of the emperor.
    - The people of Jesus' time had always lived under the rule of Kings- so this language would have made more sense to them than it does with us.
- Biblically, it is the spiritual reign and authority of God
  - Anywhere God rules is the Kingdom of God
    - This could be in reference to Heaven, in the hearts of an individual or in the collective heart of a Jesus-following church.

## AT A GLANCE

### SCRIPTURES:

- Mark 1:14-15
- Luke 4:17-21
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Hebrews 11:13-16
- Colossians 1:15-18
- Acts 2:42-47
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### CHALLENGE:

- Devote yourself to the church

## WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

### Mark 1:14-15

- Jesus was proclaiming the “good news of the Kingdom”
  - The good news was that by coming to earth- Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God.
  - The good news was that through Jesus' life and his sacrifice for us- our sin would no longer stop us from being in an intimate relationship with God.

### Luke 4:17-21

- When Jesus announced the coming of the Kingdom- he did so with this description.
- Good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, liberation for the oppressed.
- He is talking about the spiritual reign of God in the hearts of people, freeing us from sin, from the grip of poverty, from oppression, to again walk with God as humanity did at first.

## WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE TO LEARNING ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BE?

### Matthew 6:31-33

- We are called to seek his Kingdom first- before anything else.



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### WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

#### Hebrews 11:13-16

- This chapter is filled with stories of men and women who lived lives of faith, who were set apart from the rest of the world.
- They lived, acted, thought, and communicated differently because they were citizens of the Kingdom of God rather than the world
- When you are a foreigner, community is so important, the church plays that role in the Kingdom for us because we are strangers to the world
- The church is a family, our home away from home.

### THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

#### Colossians 1:15-18

- **What is the church?**
  - The church is not a building or an event, the church is the people of God- we are the church.
- **What is the role of Jesus in the church?**
  - Jesus leads the church, and we all follow him

#### Acts 2:42-47

- **What has your experience with church been in your life?**
- **What should the church look like?**
- **How often should we "go" to church?**
  - The church is a family, when the family comes together, we should make every effort to be there
  - This requires rethinking our priorities

#### 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- While there is only one body- there are many churches, and not all these churches are teaching or living according to the standard of Jesus.
  - We must be very thoughtful and prayerful when considering which church community we will devote ourselves to.
- **What should you look for (or be careful to avoid) when deciding which church community to devote yourself to?**
  - It is essential to be united in our core beliefs and practices

#### 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- We are all of equal importance in the body of Christ.
- **How can we practically live this out in the church?**

**Next Steps:**  
**Devote yourself to the church**