



WEEK 1: FAITH

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Pastor emphasizes the importance of understanding the Kingdom of God through the parables that Jesus taught, illustrating how these stories often challenge conventional beliefs and provoke deeper thought. The Gospel of the Kingdom transforms lives, moving beyond mere knowledge to having engaged faith that can change the world. He highlights that cultivating a receptive heart is crucial, as the state of one's heart determines the ability to grow and engage with God's message. Ultimately, Pastor invites listeners to reflect on their own heart conditions, the choices they make about what to believe, and how to respond to God's teachings.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 11:4-5 (NLT)

1 Peter 2:5-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Transformative Faith

The sermon emphasizes that having the 'faith of Jesus' involves a transformative relationship and not just a belief or acknowledgment of Him.

- a. What do you think it means to have the 'faith of Jesus' rather than just 'faith in Jesus?'
- b. 'Faith of Jesus' is active faith, what are ways you can live out the 'faith of Jesus', serving others personally and as a group?

2 Wisdom of Jesus Teaching

Jesus taught using stories to penetrate the heart and to help people understand a different perspective on living in the Kingdom of God.

- a. What do think was Jesus' heart to use stories or parables to communicate the kingdom of God?
- b. Can you think of a personal experience or story that helped you understand a lesson or principle better? How did it change your viewpoint?

3 Kingdom of Life

The sermon points out that worldly kingdoms often operate through force and control, while God's Kingdom is about life and healing.

- a. Jesus is a spring of life that moves through us, how does Jesus want God's kingdom to spring from us in our worldly kingdom?
- b. How can you apply the principle of leading with life and service rather than control and force in relationships, to strangers, and to our community?

4 Restoring a Right View of God

The pastor shared how the heart's condition affects one's ability to receive and grow from the teachings of Jesus, similar to how soil impacts a plant's growth.

- a. How does viewing God as compassionate (rather than distant) change your relationship with Him personally and communally?

- b.** In what ways might we come to know Him more truthfully so we can help others know Him truthfully too?

5

We Belong in the Father's House

The sermon emphasizes the importance of the will in experiencing the Kingdom and suggests that Jesus wants to win our hearts and minds.

- a.** What do you think it means to have a 'willing heart' in the context of being part of the Kingdom of God?
- b.** Consider a time when you had to decide whether to open your heart to something new or challenging. How did that experience shape your understanding of being willing?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Opening up to God is hard, but from our openness, He wants to bless you and care for you deeply.

- Where do you struggle to submit to Jesus' teaching?
- How can you grow to receive His new perspective, allowing Him to transform you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Learning Jesus' Perspective: Each day this week.

- Write down places God wants to move in.
- Next to each bullet point, place a God promise from Scripture or prayer.

Ask the Holy Spirit for awareness of His safety and care being vulnerable with Him.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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