

September 25, 2011

Week Two Small Group Instructions for *The Kingdom of God*

Please note that there are answers to the questions in the back of the book for leaders to reference throughout the study.

1. How has God used conflict this week to draw you closer to Himself? **Open Answer.**
2. In the preceding verses of the passage from Bill's message (Luke 4:14-21) Jesus was tempted. What did this conflict do in His life and ministry? **See Luke 4:1-13. Satan attacked His identity and tempted Him to deny His Father and Himself. Satan even used scripture to conflict Him (verse 10). Satan's tricks backfired and Jesus is confident/clear on His Kingship and identity. See Luke 4:21.**
3. Read John 19:30. When Jesus said "It is finished" was everyone freed, given sight and released from oppression? **Yes and no. This is the "already not yet" "now but yet to come". Jesus' death and resurrection ushered in a new time where we are blessed by the our redemption and salvation and His next return will bring the ultimate/complete Kingdom!**
4. Read this definition of a paradox, "A paradox is two propositions that at first appear to be contradictory but upon further investigation can be logically or rationally resolved." This week's Kingdom paradox is that "The Kingdom of God is now but yet to come." Why is this biblical paradox not a contradiction? **We can experience some realities of Heaven now, but it will not be seen or experienced in its fullness until after the Day of Judgment and the creation of the New Heaven.**
5. One way to describe Heaven is as a present experience and also a future place. What parts of the Kingdom do we experience now in the state of Heaven and what parts will we not experience until after we reach the place of Heaven? **For discussion on this concept, see page 32.**
6. Read Colossians 1:15-20 answer the question on page 30.
7. Lead your group through questions 3 and 4 on page 34-35.
8. John Ortberg has said, "People often talk about their spiritual life, but you don't have a *spiritual life*, you just have a life. All life is meant to be spiritual." Why is it hard to view the mundane tasks of life as spiritual, that is, part of the Kingdom of God in my own life? **Open Answer.** What activities are especially hard for you to view as part of God' rule and reign in your life? **Open Answer.**
9. Ask someone to read the 5 Kingdom in Review points on page 36 and then continue to make some applications by asking questions 1, 2, and 3 on pages 37-38.

Ask the group to read Chapter 3 for next week's meeting. Close by asking for any prayer requests and praying for the group as the leader, or praying together as a group.