

INSURGENCE

The Revolutionary Nature of the Kingdom of God

STUDENT NOTEBOOK

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*Preparing Christians to stand firm now and through difficult times.
Preparing Christians to minister with greater fruitfulness now
and through difficult times.*

OUR MESSAGE

We are living in unusual days and believe that greater national challenges likely lie ahead. While this might be unsettling to many, our message is to help people discern the hour and respond in faith, not fear. Indeed, in the midst of tumultuous days, *Forerunners of America* is believing God for the greatest spiritual harvest our nation has seen in generations.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

We desire to see five outcomes wherever our message is presented:

- 1 A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S "NOW" MESSAGE FOR HIS CHURCH AND OUR NATION**
(Jeremiah 23:22; Ezekiel 3:17; Colossians 1:28-29)
- 2 A GREATER HEART FOR THE LOST AND LEADING PEOPLE TO FAITH IN CHRIST**
(Matthew 9:35-37; Luke 19:10; Acts 1:8)
- 3 UNITY WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THROUGHOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST**
(John 17:23; 1 Peter 3:8-9; Colossians 3:15)
- 4 A BALANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND A HEALTHY FEAR OF THE LORD**
(1 Cor. 15:9-10; Psalm 34:7-14; Proverbs 9:10)
- 5 HEARTS THAT WILL CRY OUT TO GOD FOR MERCY FOR OUR NATION**
(Psalm 130:1-8; Zephaniah 2:1-3)

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THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

(LESSON 1)

The cross is not the _____ of the biblical narrative; rather, it is the _____ in Scripture.

God has chosen to _____ His creation and to _____ mankind as His representative rulers over creation.

Jesus was a _____ who came preaching a _____ message.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 4:23; 9:35, and Mark 1:14–15, what was Jesus’ essential message? What was at the core of Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels?

Jesus’ message and mission centered around _____:

- The gospel writers summarized Jesus’ ministry as a proclamation and a demonstration of God’s Kingdom
 - Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14–15
- Jesus described His mission by saying that He must preach the Kingdom of God
 - Luke 4:43
- Time and again, Jesus preached the Kingdom of God
 - Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14–15; Luke 8:1
- Jesus’ most famous sermon—the Sermon on the Mount—began with an invitation to enter God’s Kingdom
 - Matt. 5:3
- Many of Jesus’ parables centered around the Kingdom of God
 - Matt. 13:1–50; 18:21–35; 20:1–16; 21:28–22:14; 25:1–30; Mark 4:26–29
- When Jesus sent out the 12 and the 72 disciples, He only told them to say one thing— “The Kingdom of God is at hand”
 - Matt. 10:5–7; Luke 10:1, 9

- When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He included a plea for His Father's Kingdom to be established on Earth
 - Matt. 6:9–10
- Even in Jesus' final moments on Earth after He arose from the dead, Jesus preached the Kingdom of God
 - Acts 1:3

Discussion Question: According to Mark 1:14–15, how does Jesus define the gospel?

Discussion Question: What does it mean that the Kingdom of God is at hand?

Discussion Question: How do you imagine you would respond if you were an Israelite at this time?

Discussion Question: The Apocalyptists were looking for the end, and they expected the end to arrive in cataclysmic terms. They believed that if God's people could just hunker down and hold on long enough, God would come to their rescue and make everything right. Have we as the American church adopted this same mentality? If so, in what ways do we see this?

In apocalyptic thinking, the world consists of two ages: _____
_____.

Discussion Question: What are some examples in Matthew 3:10–12 of the apocalyptic language that John used?

According to John the Baptist, God was preparing to establish His Kingdom, but only the _____ would participate in it.

Discussion Question: Why was Jesus baptized by John? Why did Jesus tell John that it was fitting that He be baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness?

Discussion Question: After John's experience, why would he be uncertain whether Jesus was truly the Messiah?

Jesus _____ the sick, cast out _____, and _____ the dead. These were the very things that the Messiah was expected to do when ushering in the Age to Come.

Discussion Question: Did Jesus answer John's question in Luke 7:20–23? How so?

Suggested Prayer Points:

- As we begin this foundational study on the Kingdom of God, ask God to help us understand His Kingdom and its implications.
- Because of their expectations, many Jews missed the arrival of God's Kingdom. Even John the Baptist entertained doubts about Jesus' identity and the arrival of the Kingdom. Ask God if there are any spiritual truths that we may have missed because of mistaken expectations.
- The Kingdom of God was central to Jesus' gospel message. Ask God to reveal ways in which we might better emphasize the Kingdom in our presentation of the gospel.

Ask God to reveal how similar the gospel message we proclaim is to the gospel message that Jesus preached.



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WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

(LESSON 2)

Discussion Question: Does this rendering of Jesus' gospel message change your thinking or understanding of the gospel? If so, in what ways?

Discussion Question: The Gospels of Mark and Luke speak often of the Kingdom of God, but in Matthew, the overwhelming number of references are to the Kingdom of Heaven. In light of this, do the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven refer to the same thing?

Discussion Question: How would you define the Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven?

The Kingdom of God refers to the _____ and _____ of God over His creation.

Discussion Question: What do 2 Kings 19:15; Psalms 29:10, 103:19; and Daniel 4:3 teach us about the Kingdom of God?

Leaders may choose not to _____ to God's authority, but their authority does not _____ God's authority. At all times, God has both the right and the power to intervene.

Discussion Question: How can God be sovereign over kings and kingdoms who are in rebellion to Him?

As a technical term, the Kingdom of God refers to a time when all of _____ will choose to _____ itself to the righteous and just rule and reign of God.

The Israelites believed that the arrival of the Kingdom of God would occur in a _____, on a specific day—referred to as the “day of the Lord.” This would be an _____ event, being a time of judgment when God conquered His enemies.

Discussion Question: According to Daniel 7:13–14, who will rule the Kingdom of God?

Discussion Question: According to Daniel 7:27, who will rule with Jesus in the Kingdom of God?

Having received _____ to rule over the nations from God the Father, Jesus will then give authority to rule over the nations to His _____ disciples.

- Rev. 2:25–27

The Kingdom of God is not only about the exaltation of Jesus to His rightful place as King; it is also about our glorification as _____ with Jesus in His Kingdom!

Suggested Prayer Points:

- Take time to worship the one true God as the sovereign and rightful King over all of creation in general, and over our lives specifically.
- In the future, everyone will bend their knee to Jesus Christ, but as Christians who have already acknowledged God's rightful rule over our lives, it is vital that we take this step now. Take time to surrender every aspect of our lives to Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to instill in our hearts a longing to see God's Kingdom of righteousness supplant the Kingdom of Darkness.



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ARRIVAL OF THE KINGDOM

(LESSON 3)

In the Bible, the phrase “Kingdom of God” usually anticipates a specific time when all of creation will submit itself to the righteous and just _____ and reign of God.

Jesus’ parables suggest that the Kingdom becomes a reality among us _____ it comes in a powerful and dramatic way.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 11:11–12; 21:31–32; and Luke 16:16, has the Kingdom of God already arrived? Explain.

Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God as a _____ reality.

- Matthew 11:11–12; 21:31–32; Luke 16:16

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 12:27–29, has the Kingdom of God already arrived? Explain.

Discussion Question: Jesus—the King—ascended to heaven. Should we assume then that today the Kingdom of God is no longer present on Earth among men?

Just as the Kingdom was present in the ministry of _____, it is present in the ministry of His _____.

Discussion Question: If the Kingdom of God has already arrived, and if the Kingdom of God refers to a time when all of creation will submit itself to the righteous and just rule and reign of God, then why does sin and rebellion to God’s commandments remain?

There is a period of time in which Jesus serves as King over the Kingdom of God while not all of creation _____ His kingship.

Discussion Question: What are some other examples in the Bible in which there is an “already, and not yet” understanding?

Discussion Question: In what way can we see the “already, and not yet” nature of the Kingdom of God in Daniel 2:31–45?

According to Daniel 2:31–45, the Kingdom of God will be a reality _____ it comes in a powerful and dramatic way.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- Ask God to teach us the significance of our being a present member of His Kingdom.
- Just as the Kingdom was present in the ministry of Jesus, it is present in the ministry of the church. Ask God to embolden us to minister with the same power as Jesus as we follow His example of expelling the powers of darkness and inviting people to join God’s Kingdom.
- Jesus planted His Kingdom during His first coming, and He has enlisted us to fight the enemy and expand His Kingdom. Pray that we will be vigilant soldiers who faithfully seek to expand the influence of God’s Kingdom.



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MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED

(LESSON 4)

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:3–23, what does the parable of the soils teach us about the Kingdom of God?

In its present form, the Kingdom will only have _____ success, and this success is dependent upon each person's _____ to the gospel of the Kingdom.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:24–30 and 36–43, what does the parable of the weeds teach us about the Kingdom of God? Why do you think Jesus presented a picture of the Kingdom of God being like wheat and weeds growing together until harvest time?

Jesus taught that the Kingdom arrives in the midst of the present age rather than at its _____, and for a time, the righteous and the unrighteous will continue to live together.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:31–32, what does the parable of the mustard seed teach us about the Kingdom of God? Why did Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed?

Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God, which one day would indeed be like a great tree, was already present in the world in a _____, _____ form.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:33, what does the parable of the yeast teach us about the Kingdom of God?

Like yeast, which at first appears to accomplish very little, the Kingdom of God will eventually _____ and _____ the world.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:44–46, what do the parables of the hidden treasure and of the pearl of great value teach us about the Kingdom of God?

_____ is a small price to pay in return for gaining the Kingdom.

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:47–50, what does the parable of the net teach us about the Kingdom of God?

God's invitation to participate in the Kingdom is extended to _____,
regardless of their sordid backgrounds and rough edges. It does not _____.

Discussion Question: Mark's account of Jesus' teachings includes a parable not found in the book of Matthew. According to Mark 4:26–29, what does the parable of the growing seed teach us about the Kingdom of God?

Other than proclaiming the Good News, the _____ of the Kingdom of God is
not dependent upon man but upon God. It always remains God's Kingdom and God's
_____.

While God is not presently forcing His Kingdom upon us, the presence of the Kingdom does
require a _____ response from us. Either we give up _____ to
become a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Kingdom, or we stand outside of the
Kingdom as _____ of God.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- Like a net, the Kingdom of God does not discriminate. Ask God to protect us from discriminating in whom we seek to invite into the Kingdom. Ask that God will grant us a burden for all people regardless of their sordid backgrounds and rough edges.
- Like a tiny bit of yeast that permeates the whole lump of dough, pray that we will experience a disproportionate effectiveness in seeing God's purposes accomplished.
- Ask God to help us understand the incomparable value of His Kingdom such that we truly will be willing to sacrifice anything and everything for it.



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THE KING AND HIS COVENANT

(LESSON 5)

The arrival of the Kingdom began a new _____ between humanity and God.

Discussion Question: Jesus used for Himself the title “Son of Man.” Given the context of Matthew 11:11–13 and 19, what is the significance of this title?

In Matthew 11:11–13 and 19, Jesus declared Himself to be _____ and _____, and He also declared the _____ of the Kingdom.

Discussion Question: Were Old Testament saints saved by observing the Law? Explain.

Discussion Question: According to Galatians 2:16; 3:21–26; and Romans 3:19–24, what was the purpose of the Law?

Discussion Question: In contrast to keeping the Law, what did Jesus teach in Matthew 5:3 regarding who belongs to His Kingdom?

God is no longer using the mediators of the _____ and the _____. Now God is speaking to us _____ through His Son.

- Heb. 1:1–2

Discussion Question: In Matthew 5:21–22, 27–28 and 31–32, Jesus changed portions of the Old Testament Law. By what authority did He make these changes?

Discussion Question: In what ways did Jesus' teaching in Mark 7:14–19 reinterpret the Old Testament Law?

According to Jesus, _____ in the Kingdom of God is no longer mediated by the Law but by a new _____ act of God. A person must be purified from within, not from without.

Discussion Question: With a change of law comes a change in the standard by which a person is judged. Why do you think Matthew 12:35–37, teaches that this new standard for judgment will be our careless words rather than our conduct?

We will not be judged by our adherence to the Law but by the degree to which our _____ matches the _____ of God.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- In contrast to the Jewish religious leaders, worship Jesus as the Son of Man who was prophesied in the book of Daniel to be the King over God's Kingdom. Thank the Father for sending His Son—the King—to speak to us directly rather than continue to use mediators.
- Many Jews failed to recognize that Jesus is superior to the Law. Pray that we would not become so fixated on legalistic regulations that we miss Jesus and the relationship that He offers.
- We will be judged by our character rather than our conduct. Pray that through the empowering of the Holy Spirit who has written God's laws upon our hearts, our character will be transformed to match Jesus' character.



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KINGDOM PARTICIPATION

(LESSON 6)

Discussion Question: Reflecting on what we have learned thus far about the Kingdom of God, do you believe there is continuity or discontinuity with the Old Testament? In other words, when Jesus planted the Kingdom like a mustard seed during His first coming, was he planting something new because the Old Testament plan had failed, or was Jesus building upon Old Testament truths? Explain.

Discussion Question: Did the Israelites believe Gentiles could participate in the Kingdom of God? Why?

To the Jewish mind, the equation was simple: participants in the Kingdom of God must be _____ of Abraham, _____, and faithful to obey the Old Testament _____.

Discussion Question: Reflecting upon both the Old Testament and Jesus' teachings, were the Jews wrong in their understanding of the requirements to participate in the Kingdom of God? Were they wrong to believe Gentiles could not participate in the Kingdom? Explain.

Participation in God's Kingdom has never been limited to the _____ because participation has always been through _____. Circumcision and the Law were merely tools for expressing and demonstrating this _____.

- Heb. 11:8–12

Discussion Question: According to Genesis 12:1–3, what were God's original promises to Abraham, and were they conditional?

Discussion Question: According to the covenant, God would build a nation out of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by multiplying their descendants and giving them a land to dwell in, and God would bless all nations and families of the earth through their offspring. Is this one promise, or two? According to Galatians 3:16, should we understand this as one promise/train of thought, or as two? Why?

By conflating the _____ of God's promise, the Jews became confused in their understanding of who could participate in God's Kingdom.

Discussion Question: According to Romans 9:25–27, how many Jews will participate in the Kingdom of God?

Discussion Question: According to Galatians 3:6–9 and 26–29, who are the sons of Abraham? Explain.

Just as there will be Jews who _____ participate in the Kingdom of God, so also there will be Gentiles who _____ participate in the Kingdom of God. All who place their faith in Jesus Christ are made _____ partakers in God's covenant with Abraham.

- Gal. 3:6–9, 26–29

Jesus' teaching did not _____ the requirement for entrance into the Kingdom of God. He merely _____ the requirements by exposing the error of the Jewish thinking.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- The Jews believed their pedigree determined their relationship with God. Pray that we will be protected from believing that our spiritual heritage influences how God views us today.

- Some Jews believed they would experience the Kingdom of God because they followed all the religious rules. Pray that we will be protected from believing that our relationship with God is dependent upon what we do rather than upon our faith and trust in Him.
- Thank God that there is no favoritism within the Kingdom of God. Pray that we would be protected from showing favoritism toward those who appear to be more religiously acceptable.



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ONE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE OF GOD

(LESSON 7)

Discussion Question: According to Hebrews 3:7–11 and 19, there were Old Testament Jews who did not accept God’s ways and whose hearts were always going astray through unbelief. What are some examples where the people rejected God through unbelief?

Discussion Question: What are some examples from the Old Testament of Gentiles who worshipped the true God?

Discussion Question: If God is interested in the heart rather than ancestry, then why did God build the Jews into a nation?

The Abrahamic Covenant had _____ parts—God promised to build Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s offspring into a mighty nation, and secondly, God promised to bless all

_____ through Abraham's singular offspring, Jesus. Because of this, the title of God's people in the Bible assumes _____ forms.

- Gen. 22:17–18; 26:1–5; 28:10–14; Gal. 3:7–9

Discussion Question: According to Ephesians 3:1–6, what is the mystery of God?

_____ and _____ both belong to God's spiritual Israel—the people of God through faith.

- Gal. 3:26–29

Discussion Question: How does Ephesians 2:11–22, reveal that by uniting both Jews and Gentiles, God is neither giving up on His original plan for salvation, nor is He substituting His people with a new people?

When God's Kingdom was established, the Gentiles did not _____ the Jews in God's redemptive plan. Neither did the uniting of the Gentiles and the Jews together into the church _____ God's promises to Israel as a nation.

Discussion Question: How does Romans 11:11–26, reveal that by uniting both Jews and Gentiles, God is neither giving up on His original plan for salvation, nor is He substituting His people with a new people?

Discussion Question: As you consider God’s plan to establish His Kingdom on Earth, what is the significance of the imagery of there being only one olive tree as the people of God?

Discussion Question: What are examples of other imagery that the Bible uses to convey the truth that God has only ever had one people of God—and that people consists today of both Jews and Gentiles whose foundation and heritage is the same, who share the same hope, and who comprise the same Kingdom?

We are not an after-thought in God’s _____, and neither are we second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God. Instead, we look ahead to the very _____ promises as the Jews, and this is our blessed hope.

- Rom. 8:16–25; Tit. 2:11–14; 1 Pet. 1:3–5

Suggested Prayer Points:

- As the people of God, pray that we will be truly set apart and devoted to God.
- Thank God that He has chosen to reveal to us the mystery of how He has chosen to unite Jews and Gentiles together as co-heirs of the same promises. Pray that we would be protected from the efforts of those who seek to build a barrier of separation between Jews and Gentiles by requiring that Gentiles adopt Jewish customs, dates, and religious practices in order to be right with God. Likewise, pray that we will be protected from believing that today's predominantly Gentile church has replaced Israel.
- The Bible is not about God's people the Jews in the Old Testament and God's people the church in the New Testament. Pray that we would embrace the Old Testament as being just as important in our spiritual lives as the teachings of the New Testament.



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THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH

(LESSON 8)

Beginning in the _____ Testament, the church has always been at the _____ of God's Kingdom.

Discussion Question: What is the meaning of the word "church?"

Discussion Question: Was there a church in the Old Testament?

God's church in the _____ assumed two forms in keeping with the understanding that the Abrahamic Covenant was two-fold. There was the church—meaning _____ Israel—that was a nation separated unto God in its government and practice, and there was the church—meaning _____ Israel—that was a people separated unto God through faith.

- Rom. 9:6–8; Gal. 3:7–9, 27–29

Discussion Question: What are some examples of Gentiles who belonged to the Old Testament church, meaning that while they were not Jews by birth, they were still God's people through their faith?

Implicit in the New Testament use of the word _____ is the claim that the _____ stands in continuity with the Old Testament people of God.

Discussion Question: According to 1 Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:5–6; and Deuteronomy 7:6, what titles does the Apostle Peter use to refer to New Testament saints which are the same as God uses to refer to Old Testament saints?

Discussion Question: According to 1 Peter 2:10, how do the New Testament saints fulfill God's prophecy toward Israel in Hosea 1:6–10?

The New Testament church is merely a _____ of the Old Testament _____.

- There is one flock (John 10:14–16)
- There is one olive tree (Rom. 11:11–26)
- There is one household of God (Eph. 2:11–22)

- There is one temple of God (Eph. 2:11–22)
- There is one body (Eph. 3:3–6)
- There is one New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2, 9–14)
- There is one bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2, 9–14)

Discussion Question: If the church has existed from the time of Adam, then what occurred at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2?

The church is synonymous with _____, but lest we become confused, the New Testament also uses the word “church” as a technical term referring to a _____ assembly of God’s people.

The _____ refers to the people of God who have left the Kingdom of Darkness and have become citizens of God’s Kingdom. As such, the _____ is at the _____ of God’s Kingdom and His redemptive plan.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- As God’s representation on earth, pray that we the church, being His called-out ones, will be fully surrendered to His lordship, following His will and ways.
- The Bible emphasizes the idea that God’s people are one group. Pray that we will be protected from the temptation to divide God’s people into segregated groups, such as Old Testaments saints, the church, end times Jewish believers, and Millennial saints.
- The church was not birthed in Acts chapter 2. Instead, the church received the promised outpouring and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of the New Covenant that God had made with His people. Pray that God will expand our understanding of the significance of Acts chapter 2.



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KINGDOM AUTHORITY

(LESSON 9)

Discussion Question: According to Matthew 13:17, there is one thing that distinguishes the New Testament church from the Old Testament church. What is it?

In the Old Testament _____, God dwelt among His people in a temple of stone, but in the New Testament _____, God dwells within His people who serve as a spiritual temple.

- Eph. 2:19–22

Wherever Christians are, the _____ and His _____ are present.

- Col. 1:13–14

Discussion Question: Are the church and the Kingdom the same thing? Explain.

Discussion Question: What is the essence of Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20? What does Jesus hope to accomplish through His Great Commission?

God has chosen to use His _____ to spread the Kingdom.

Discussion Question: How does Matthew 28:18–20 grant God's people authority to rule alongside Him?

We have been granted parameters in which we exercise all authority over our _____ to accomplish God's will in _____ the gospel and making _____.

Discussion Question: Who are our enemies?

Discussion Question: What is the significance of Jesus having been seated at the right hand of God the Father according to Ephesians 1:20–23 and Psalm 110:1–2?

Jesus sits in heaven _____ as both God and _____.

- Eph. 1:20–23

Discussion Question: What is the significance of our having been seated in the heavenlies with Jesus according to Ephesians 2:4–7?

Discussion Question: If we are presently ruling with Jesus, then why don't we see all things conform to our will?

Even as we _____ reign with Christ, there is also a sense in which our rule is still a _____ event. This is because there is a sense in which Jesus' rule remains a _____ event.

- 2 Tim. 2:11–12; Rev. 5:9–10; 11:15–17

We serve as mobile outposts for the Kingdom who _____ the Kingdom by bringing the _____ of the gospel wherever we go.

Suggested Prayer Points:

- We have the incredible privilege of participating with Jesus as He expands His Kingdom and subjects His enemies to His authority. Ask God to protect us from the temptation of taking this privilege for granted and from squandering the opportunities we have been given to expand God's Kingdom.
- Wherever Christians are, the King and His Kingdom are present. Ask God to grant us an unwavering boldness as we proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God.
- We have been commissioned and empowered by Him who possesses all authority in heaven and on Earth to expand God's Kingdom by proclaiming the gospel and living lives that model life in the Kingdom. Pray that we will be more focused on Kingdom values and goals than on the values and goals of this world.



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REIGN OF THE SERVANT KINGS

(LESSON 10)

Discussion Question: If we are positionally seated upon Jesus' throne, then have we become an authority unto ourselves?

Discussion Question: In Matthew 28:18, Jesus declared that He has been given all authority. If we are positionally seated upon Jesus' throne, then do we also have all authority? Is our authority unlimited?

Discussion Question: What are some examples in Scripture of where our authority is limited?

We have _____ granted full authority over other people to bring them into submission because God Himself has _____ chosen to exercise His full

authority over people to bring them into submission. Instead, we have been granted full authority to _____ others about the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Question: If we have been granted full authority to teach others about the Kingdom of God, then can we assume that the spiritual forces of evil will be unable to effectively resist us?

We live in a world that fails to recognize Jesus' _____; therefore, we should not be surprised when the world _____ us.

Like Jesus, we are to rule as _____ kings. Jesus possessed full authority as the rightful King, but He chose to _____ Himself to be mistreated and misunderstood.

Discussion Question: Of all the attributes that belong to the Kingdom of God, why do you think Jesus chose to highlight these attributes of the Kingdom: poor in spirit; mourning; meekness; longing for righteousness; mercy; purity of heart; peacemaking; endurance under persecution? What is the significance of each of these in today's world.

Discussion Question: What do you believe the impact would be if God's people collectively modelled the attributes listed in Matthew 5:1–12: poor in spirit; mourning; meekness; longing for righteousness; mercy; purity of heart; peacemaking; endurance under persecution?

Discussion Question: If these are the values of the Kingdom of God, and if we belong to the Kingdom of God, then why do we struggle to model these attributes in this age?

Humility, peacemaking, purity, etc. are not merely target goals for us to strive toward on our personal journey of sanctification. Instead, they are _____ values for anyone who seeks to _____ alongside Jesus as His representative servant king. They are our _____ against spiritual darkness as we seek to expand the Kingdom of God in this age.

As God's mobile outposts tasked with _____ the Kingdom by allowing Jesus' light to shine through us as we make disciples of Jesus, we find ourselves on the _____. Increasingly, as more disciples of Jesus are recruited, what began as an insurgence eventually becomes an _____ of the Kingdom of God upon the Kingdom of Darkness!

Suggested Prayer Points:

- As we exercise our authority in Christ to expand God's Kingdom, pray that we will humble ourselves to more readily discern His purposes from our preferences.
- Pray that we will be bold enough to live lives that stand in stark contrast to the Kingdom of Darkness.
- As we co-rule with Jesus, pray that we will be increasingly defined by the qualities described in Matthew. 5:1–12: poor in spirit; mourning; meekness; longing for righteousness; mercy; purity of heart; peacemaking; and endurance under persecution.



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Dave Warn

President and Founder of Forerunners of America

Dave came to faith in Christ as a college student and has been in full-time ministry ever since. His tenures with Cru and Life Action Ministries prepared him to launch *Forerunners of America* in 2014. Dave believes that God has a “now” message for this generation, and the body of Christ must be prepared for what is coming next to our nation. Dave is a frequent conference speaker, helping people discern the hour in which we are living and learn how to respond in faith.



Timothy Zebell

Research and Writing

As a former missionary to Asia for twelve years and the author of several self-published books, Timothy is passionate about helping people understand the relevancy of God’s Word in today’s world. His goals are to help Christians discern truth from error, empower Christians to speak into cultural matters with relevancy, and help Christians capitalize on the opportunities these matters provide for sharing the truth about God and His gospel message.



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