

Week One
God's Kingdom: Inside/Out of This World

Participants Guide



CIRCLE UP

Introductions.

Meet our Group.

"Where did you grow up?"

"What is one thing nobody knows about you?"

Meet our Theme.

- *"What truths do you see in the KINGdom enCOUNTER graphic?"*
[Notice color and caps]

Interactions

• Read Matthew 4:23–5:2, aloud, together.
Sunday's message introduced us to the counter-kingdom of God. Jesus presented that counter-culture kingdom in His most famous message: The Sermon On The Mount (Matthew 5-7). God's heavenly kingdom is truly out-of-this-world. But, Jesus calls His followers to participate in His kingdom by expanding it, in-this-world. It begins as each of us aligns our self to king Jesus.

1. In Sunday's message, how was the theme of "mountains" significant?
2. How did Jesus speak to you in Sunday's message? What did He say to you?

- Reread Matthew 4:23 aloud.

DISCOVER Kingdom Principles

We are learning about *the kingdom* on Sunday mornings. That is foundational to Jesus message and mission. But, what is the *good news* Jesus was proclaiming? *Good news* is the meaning of the word *gospel*. Chances are, the *good news of the kingdom* that Jesus proclaimed is different than the *gospel* message we often hear and share.

3. What is *the gospel*? What message do you think of when you hear about *presenting the gospel*?

To discover the gospel that Jesus proclaimed, we need to back up, a bit. Jesus began His public preaching/teaching ministry after He was baptized and then tested in the wilderness. John the Baptist, who Jesus had asked to baptize Him, was put in prison because of his preaching: "*Repent. The kingdom of heaven is near.*" Then, Jesus picked up the message where John left off.

- Read Matthew 4:17-22 aloud, paying attention to the heart of Jesus' message.
4. What two big actions/responses does Jesus' "gospel" require? What is the meaning of each?

DISCUSS Kingdom Priorities

John the Baptist announced the coming of God's kingdom of heaven – to earth – through Jesus. People responded with confession and repentance, expressed in baptism. John went on to explain the nature of repentance.

- Read Matthew 3:6-10 aloud, looking for what it says about *repentance*.
5. How do we know if repentance is happening?
 6. How might Jesus' gospel be different from what we hear and/or present?

DO Kingdom Practices

7. How is Jesus calling you to more faithful participation in the Kingdom?

PRAYER

For NEXT TIME:

- Read or Listen to Matthew 5:1-16
- Attend Sunday Gathering or Watch online
- Pray/Consider how Jesus might be speaking to you.
- YouVersion "*Upside-Down Kingdom*" [click here](#)