

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Rediscover Jesus' Message

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Questions for small groups or further discussion

1. Session 1: Introduction and The Problem of our Modern Gospels

1. What was the gospel that you heard and that brought you to faith in Christ? Do you see it or some form of it in the 5 reduced gospels named in the presentation?
2. Before this presentation, what was your understanding of what Jesus meant by "the gospel of the kingdom?"
3. What is your opinion of the Historical Weakness that was presented? Has the Reformation actually reduced our gospel?
4. In the Biblical Weakness portion, the presenter claimed that when we evangelize, or "gospel", that we do it differently than Jesus and His apostles. Why did the presenter think this is a problem, and do you agree with him?
5. The presenter is claiming that our gospel is the foundation of our church, and that if the foundation is too small or weak, then our church will be small and weak. Why do you think that this is correct or incorrect? Can you offer Biblical support for your understanding?

2. Session 2: What is Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom?

1. Now how would you define a kingdom?
2. After this presentation, how would you answer our original question, "What is Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom?"
3. The presenter made the claim that the whole Biblical story from Genesis to Revelation is framed up with a kingdom frame, and presents in all its fullness the Gospel of the Kingdom. What are your thoughts about this claim?
4. "Jesus is King" Now that you understand more of the meaning of this affirmation, what did you learn new about the life and teaching of Jesus the Messiah?
5. What new insights or understandings did you gain about Jesus the King's death on a cross and his resurrection?

3. Session 3: The Vision of Churches as Kingdom Outposts

1. How do you or your church understand and implement the apostolic function - whatever you may call it?
2. How are you or your church establishing your people in the Didache of the New Testament documents?
3. How much of your church's focus, energy and money goes into a good works kingdom focus for outsiders, as opposed to the focus, energy and money expended on worship services, staff, and internal programs for members?
4. In what ways does a more robust understanding of Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom lead to seeing your church as a kingdom outpost? Can you connect those dots?
5. What is your current Kingdom Assignment from King Jesus? What are you doing about it?