

One Kingdom

The Kingdom People of God (August 30th, 2020)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another, just as you have loved us! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to speak, show us opportunities to serve our neighbors, and continue to transform us into the likeness of Jesus so that we might lay down our lives for one another and experience abundant life as your kingdom representatives!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Buz led us into the second week of our series titled *One Kingdom*. Pastor Buz zooms in on *Exodus 19:1-6* to give us a working definition of what it means to exist in the Kingdom of God. After bringing up some preconceived notions of what the word kingdom means, Pastor Buz offers six ways to think about what it means to be a people of God in His kingdom. After defining the kingdom, Pastor Buz offers some of the practical implications that encourage us as a church to look beyond our group classifications towards our kingdom mission on earth as it is in heaven!

“We are defined by our relationship with God, for His purposes, under his authority. The Kingdom is God’s rule, in God’s place, over God’s people.” – Pastor Buz Hannon

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *Icebreaker* – What was your favorite fairy tale story growing up as a kid?

Study Tip: A great way to search for the context of a Biblical text like Exodus 19 is to consider the surrounding chapters. *If you jump forward one chapter*, you might recognize that Exodus 20 begins the ten commandments! After the ten commandments, you will find a series of societal laws for Israel and detailed instructions for the tabernacle, a place where God would dwell in the midst of Israel! When we talk about Exodus 19, we ought to remember that our key text acts as the first words in a broader conversation between the Lord and Moses in which God seeks to bring His people into His promises of blessings! *If we jump a couple of chapters backward*, we see the people of Israel, represented by Moses' song, praising God for His might to bring Israel out from Egypt. However, at the end of 15 and through the first portion of 17, we discover that Israel has quickly forgotten the provision of the Lord as they grumble and complain over food and water in the wilderness. While God desires to establish His kingdom rule, bring back Israel to the promised land of Canaan, and dwell in the midst of His beloved kingdom people, Israel cannot seem to escape her pattern of sin. So when we come to passages like Exodus 19 where God's covenant conditions rely on the obedience of Israel and at the same time we hear the people say, "All that the Lord has spoken, we will do," we should be skeptical (Ex. 19:8, 24:3, 7)! Sure enough, Aaron and the Israelites swiftly succumb to idolatry (32) shortly after witnessing the glory of the Lord arrive at Mt. Sinai (19:16-20). Thankfully, however, the pattern of sin isn't the only thing we see *before* Exodus 19. Even though God's people complained, God provided manna and quail from the sky and water from a rock. He miraculously defeated Israel's enemies and brought Jethro to prepare a governmental structure for Israel. God's mercy, grace, and everlasting love would have the final say (Ex. 34:6-7)! As you study this passage this week, recognize that it is by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus and his resurrection that wash away this pattern of sin and transforms our hearts with the Holy Spirit so that we might obey and be included in God's kingdom!

Objective #1: Reflect on your perception of the term *kingdom* and Jesus as lord over this *kingdom*.

Primary Texts: *Matthew 6:9-13; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 1:3* – Pastor Buz begins his sermon by explaining all of the different cultural images that come to his mind when he begins to imagine what the word *kingdom* means. **What ideas come to your mind when you hear the word *kingdom*? How might your modern understanding of the word *kingdom* influence the way you think about Jesus as lord of this *kingdom*?**

Supporting texts: (*Kingdom of God*) [New Testament Phrase Search](#) [Note: Try searching for "kingdom of heaven" with parenthesis.]

Objective #2: Offer a definition of the *kingdom* and reflect on which aspects are still developing.

Primary Texts: *Exodus 19:1-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10* – Pastor Buz walks us through the Exodus passage to offer us six different defining characters of who the church is in this *kingdom* of God. The people of God's kingdom are defined by (1) their familial relationship with God, (2) their freedom from bondage made possible by God, (3) their close proximity to God, (4) the love they receive from God as his treasured possessions, (5) their God given purpose as a mediator between God and all the earth as God brings blessings to all people, and (6) their holy and "set apart" status in the world. **Which of these six defining attributes of God's kingdom people encourages you the most in this season? Which of these six points would you like to see become more of a reality in your life?**

Supporting texts: (*Kingdom People*) *Gen. 12:1-3; Matt. 28:18-20; Gal. 3:28*

Objective #3: Identify faulty thinking about the *kingdom* and make plans to bring God's *kingdom* on earth!

Primary Texts: *Philippians 3:12-21* – Pastor Buz concludes the sermon by pointing out 3 mistakes we make when thinking about the kingdom. First, the kingdom of God is always centered around our relationship with God rather than an ethnicity group or national identity. Second, our kingdom mission is to bring God's blessing through our gospel words and loving deeds rather than solely making our lives better. Finally, the kingdom of God transforms life right now here on earth and is also focused on a future eternal salvation in heaven – these are not mutually exclusive ideas! **Which one of these points is the most convicting to you and why? How will you bring the *kingdom* a bit more into your areas of influence (work, family, self-discipline, finances, etc.)?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing His love through his selfless life and his sacrificial death on the cross! Ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus in the various hardships and situations we face daily. Finally, pray that we as a church would unite as a people who are *known by* our love for one another as we humbly interact with one another under the banner of One Kingdom!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Host a Watch Party: At 3Crosses, we are excited to introduce [Watch Parties](#) for our Sunday Services. If you already have a social bubble meeting on Sundays, great! Be sure to let us know about it! Feel free to take a picture and send it in to AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org. If you are interested in launching a new Watch Party and *safely* opening up your home to new guests and those looking for community, let us know [HERE](#)

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that the members of your group would find a way to bring God's kingdom to the place in which they live this week!

-Community Group Fall 2020: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org