

One Kingdom

Kingdom People on Mission (September 27th, 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 Danny leads us into the sixth and final week of our series titled *One Kingdom*. Pastor Danny focusses our attention to *Acts 1:4-8* to give us a picture of how we as God's kingdom people are supposed to relate to the governing authorities. Pastor Rob points out that ALL authority is established by God, rebelling against authority brings judgment from God, and obeying authority brings protection through God. Therefore, he challenges us to submit to authority as a matter of conscience knowing that those with governmental authority are God's servants and that the state was primarily established by Him to do good and punish evil.

“Someday, God's kingdom will cover the earth. For now, we transform into His image as people while we partner with His Spirit to change the world!” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions



Check-In: *Icebreaker* – What has been your biggest takeaway from this *One Kingdom* series/

Study Tip: Acts comes to us as part two of a continuation of the gospel recorded by Luke! Passages in Acts 16 that use the pronoun “we” (Acts 16:10-17) and other Pauline letters (Col. 4:10-14) suggest that Luke was a Greek physician who traveled alongside Paul and wrote Luke and Acts sometime around 60 A.D. to gather all of the documented facts so that he could accurately portray Jesus to a man named Theophilus (Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3). While the identity of Theophilus remains somewhat of a mystery, we can assume by the title “most excellent Theophilus” that he was an elite in the Roman empire, perhaps the financier of Luke’s travels or perhaps a judge sitting on the court (Acts 24:3, 26:25). What is unique about Luke’s authorship is that he is very concerned with the accurate *historical* timing of events and the unique people involved in Jesus’ ministry. In Luke’s gospel, you get the sense that you are literally walking *on the road* alongside of Jesus while listening to his philosophical teachings much like a disciple of any Greek philosopher in the first century. Additionally, since Luke is a physician, he reveals his heart for the sick and his interest in a man who heals all kinds of ailments! Sure enough, much of his gospel account documents the religious leaders and the outcasts of society *reclining at the table* of Jesus! Therefore, in the Luke and Acts account, we should be looking for a continued narrative of *historical accuracy* after Jesus resurrects and meets his disciples *on the road* to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13-27) and *reclines at the table* with them to enlighten of the gospel (Lk. 24:28-49)! *So how do we see these key themes continue in Acts?* As you navigate this study guide, pay attention to a few important contextual details. *Historically*, pay attention to how Luke begins to zoom in on the specific time frame of Jesus’ death and resurrection (Lk. 22:1, 7, 66, 23:54-56, 24:1, Acts 1:3). Watch how all of the days align with many important Jewish traditions like the Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of first fruits, the 40-day appearance, and inevitably the feast of weeks (Pentecost) on day 50 (Lev. 23). Pay attention to how Jesus is the one who paves a new *road* for His disciples to walk on as they become witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth! Finally, remember that Jesus promises to be *relationally* with them always until the end of the age (Matt. 28:18-20)!

Objective #1: Identify your groups attitude toward the church’s relationship with the world!

Primary Texts: Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 6:46-49 – Pastor Danny begins the sermon by evaluating our relationship to the world through three different perspectives. As a church, we often find ourselves with (1) an escapist approach that says the church *cannot* change the world, (2) a passive approach that says the church *should not* change the world, or (3) an active approach that attempts to make real change in the world but hits wall after wall. **What do you think about when you hear the phrase, “God will use His people to transform the world?” Which one of these three categories do you believe that you are currently in?**

Objective #2: Evaluate your relationship with the Holy Spirit and how this time of waiting has affected it!

Primary Texts: Acts 1:1-8 – Next, Pastor Danny explains that just like Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem, perhaps God is telling us to wait out for this COVID-19 crisis. He makes the point that waiting can realign our vision with His Spirit and remind us that it is only by His power that His mission can be accomplished. Therefore, sometimes God makes us wait because He needs to change us before He can change the world through us. **Have you ever had a season where you felt like you were “keeping in step with the Spirit?” What did that look like? How does that compare to your current relationship with the Holy Spirit during this long period of waiting?**

Objective #3: Obeying authority brings protection through God

Primary Texts: Acts 2:1-47 – Finally, Pastor Danny reminds us that God wants to transform us while He uses us to transform the world! To the escapist, he asks (1) what if God is trying to break your heart for this region? To the passivists, he asks (2) what if there are some things in you that God wants to change while you wait/ Finally, to the activists he asks (3) what if God has a much bigger vision than you do? **What can you do this week to bring God’s kingdom into the world with a posture of humility, asking God to transform you along the way? Which of the 3 questions do you believe God is asking of you and why?**

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 the church and our surrounding community 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