

Kingdom of God 11 – Leader’s Guide

See Bible study at bottom of the page.

- 1. Name several ways that Jesus went against his culture. (Jesus loved and welcomed children. The culture saw them as worthless and unimportant. He valued women, the poor, outcasts, and lepers. The culture didn’t.)**
- 2. What are the top values in American culture? (Money, success, getting rich.)**
- 3. What is the kingdom view of money? (Money is a tool, not the top goal. We should trust in God, not money. Money is unreliable; we shouldn’t hoard!)**
- 4. What can happen to our treasures on earth? (They can rust. Moths can eat them, and thieves can steal them. They are temporary.)**
- 5. What does our culture teach about comfort? (A top goal is to have an easy, comfortable, pain-free life.)**
- 6. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Deny yourself.”? (He means you need to say NO to yourself. You need to sacrifice and give up your comfort.)**
- 7. What does it mean to take up your cross daily? (It means to be willing to accept hardship and suffering. We should not just look for an easy life.)**
- 8. What does our culture teach about power and influence? (It teaches us to advance ourselves, seek titles and positions. Be selfish and look out for #1.)**
- 9. What does greatness look like in God’s kingdom? (It means helping and serving others, NOT being selfish.)**
- 10. What did James and John’s mother ask Jesus? (To give her sons the highest place of honor at Jesus’ right and left hand. She was asking for power and influence.)**
- 11. Jesus says that many leaders “lord it over” people. What does he mean? (They control and abuse people with their power. They put others down and take away their freedoms. They are harsh and cruel.)**
- 12. How must leaders act in Jesus’ kingdom? (They must serve others and put others first. They must be kind.)**
- 13. How did Jesus serve His disciples the night before He died? (Washed their feet. This was a disgusting job that slaves did.)**

- 14. How do most people try to find happiness? (They look to money, things, power, comfort, relationships, and self.)**
- 15. How do you become happy in the kingdom of God? (Your relationship with God gives you joy. You become happy by giving your life away to God, If you do, you'll find true life!)**

The Upside - Down Kingdom – Part 11

The Kingdom and Money. 1 Timothy 6:7-10, 17-19 Who Is God?

- Trustworthy, reliable v.17
- Richly gives us all we need v.17
- Wants us to enjoy life v.17

Who Is Man?

- Came into world as babies with nothing v.7
- Can't take anything with us into next life v.7
- Need to be content with food and clothing v.8
- Some want to get rich, have greedy longing for wealth v.9
- Can fall into temptation, trap if you pursue money v.9
- Worship of money leads to personal misery, many sorrows v.9,10
- If we love money, it can lead to all kinds of evil v. 10
- Loving money can cause you to wander from faith v.10
- Can become proud if they have a lot of money v.17
- Can trust in money v.17
- Should trust in God not money v.17
- Should use money as a tool to do good v.18
- Should be rich in good works v.18
- Should be generous, willing to share v.18
- Need to store up treasures in heaven- by good deeds on earth v.19
- Need to think eternally v.19
- Can think that true life comes from money

So What?

- I can't take any money or things with me into next life!
- Am I content with food and clothing?
- Do I have a greedy longing for wealth?
- Do I trust in God or money?

- Do I know that money is unreliable?
- Do I trust God to meet all my needs?
- Do I use the money I have as a tool to do good?
- Do I think eternally? Am I storing up treasure in heaven?

The Kingdom and Comfort/Happiness. Matthew 16:24-27 Who Is Jesus?

- Wants followers. Model. Example. Teacher. v. 24
- Leads us!
- Commands us to turn from selfish ways, say no to ourselves v.24
- Commands us to “die” to our own way, agenda, dreams
- Commands followers to be willing to endure, suffer (“take up cross DAILY” Luke 9:23)
- Commands followers to imitate him v. 24
- Says that happiness comes from losing our lives! v. 25
- Says that if we are willing to lose comfort, security for him, we’ll find our true selves!
- Says we have 2 choices: follow world and lose our souls OR follow Jesus and save our souls v.26
- Son of Man. Will return in Father’s glory with angels v.27
- Will reward followers. Eternal rewards for good deeds in this life. v.27

Who Is Man?

- Selfish. Have selfish ways. v. 24
- Need to forget ourselves, set aside own selfish interests, die to self v.24
- Need to carry our cross daily, kill our own sinful desires daily v.24
- Need to sacrifice. Be willing to follow Jesus in spite of suffering, hardship
- Need to be willing to GIVE UP EVERYTHING to follow Jesus!
- Need to model our lives after Jesus, follow in his footsteps. v.24
- Try to hang on to their lives but will lose them v.25
- Want an easy life of comfort with no troubles. Want to live for ourselves.
- If we willingly lose our lives for Jesus, we will find true life v.25
- Can gain whole world- be famous, rich, successful. Temporary! v.26
- Wealthy and powerful can lose their souls, end up in hell. v.26

- Can lose the real “ME”. Can lose my very self by playing world’s game v.26
- Our soul is valuable! Nothing is more valuable! v.26
- We can be foolish and trade away our souls for temporary wealth, power
- Will gain my soul if I choose Jesus v.26
- Will receive rewards for choosing Jesus, living for him v.27

So What?

- It is costly to follow Jesus- but worth it!
- Have I given up everything to follow Jesus?
- Do I model my life after Jesus?
- Do I say NO to myself? Do I kill my sinful desires?
- Am I willing to give up a life of comfort and ease? To suffer if necessary?
- Have I chosen to follow the world and lose my soul?
- Have I lost the real ME by playing the world’s game?
- Do I know that Jesus will reward me eternally for the way I live now?

The Kingdom and Power. Matthew 20:25-28 Who Is Jesus?

- Wants kingdom leaders to be different. Does not want leaders in kingdom to be controlling, abuse their power v.26
- Teaches upside down values! Leaders in kingdom are servants. v.27
- More upside- down values! Slaves are # 1 in kingdom! v.27
- Son of Man. Didn’t come to be served by everyone v.28
- Not a slave master! Came to give, serve, be a slave! v.28
- Came to give his life to ransom many people. Made a payment for their sins. Not money! He paid with his blood. v.28

Who Is Man?

- Ambitious. Looking for power, recognition from people. v. 21
- Leaders “lord it over” = Dictators. Have absolute power, control, harass, oppress, scare v.25
- Tyrants. Love to show off their power. Use authority to keep others down. v.25
- We are great in God’s eyes if we serve others v.26

- **“First” in the kingdom are not those who look out for # 1! They are unselfish, help, serve others v.27**

So What?

- **What kind of leader do I want to be? A control freak? A tyrant?**
- **Do I need to change my thinking about true greatness?**
- **Will I embrace Jesus’ upside-down values and become a servant leader?**

