

Kingdom of God 1 - Leader's Guide

See Bible study at the bottom of the page.

1. What are the two invisible kingdoms? (Kingdom of darkness and kingdom of light. OR: Kingdom of Satan and Kingdom of God.)
2. Who wins the invisible war? (God does! Kingdom of light wins.)
3. What is a kingdom? (A territory, a region governed by a king or queen.)
4. Who is the king in the kingdom of God? (Jesus)
5. What is a parable? (A symbolic story. It seems very simple but teaches spiritual truths about God.)
6. Where did people hide their treasure in Jesus' day? (in the ground)
7. Was the man in the parable looking for treasure? (No! He just stumbled on it.)
8. What did he do when he found the treasure? (He buried it again, sold all he had, and bought the field where it was buried.)
9. How did the man feel when he found the treasure? (Joyous, excited!)
10. How is the parable of the pearl different from the parable of the hidden treasure? (The merchant was *searching* for the pearl. In the other parable, the man *stumbled* on the treasure; he wasn't searching.)
11. What did the merchant do when he found the special pearl? (He sold everything he had and bought it.)
12. What does the pearl represent? (Jesus)
13. What are some other pearls in the world? (Music, sports, cars, money, friends, family, phones, computers.)
14. Why is Jesus the best pearl? (Jesus gives peace and eternal life.)
15. There is another way to look at the parable. Who is the pearl from this perspective? (We are.)
16. Who is the merchant from this perspective? How did he give up everything to "buy us"? (Jesus. He gave up everything by dying for us on the cross.)

The Kingdom of God – Part 1

Parables of the Kingdom

Matthew 13: 44 (*Parable of Hidden Treasure*) Who Is Jesus?

- Treasure
- SO Valuable, Precious!
- Can be hidden
- More valuable than things, possessions
- Worth sacrificing all to get Jesus

Who Is Man?

- Some are not looking for kingdom
- Come across kingdom by “accident”. Stumble on it.
- JOYOUS when they find kingdom
- Sacrifice all, give up all they have to get kingdom

So What?

- Jesus is more precious than money and things!
- Do I value him enough to put him first?
- Would I give up money, possessions to serve Jesus?

Matthew 13:45 (*Parable of the Pearl*) Who Is Jesus?

- Pearl of great value. Worth pursuing.
- Beautiful
- Worth everything to find him
- Or: Merchant looking for us. Searches for us. Pursues us. Wants us!
- Gave up everything to “buy” us. Sacrificed his life.

Who Is Man?

- Searches for truth, something precious to believe in
- Puts time, effort into search. Works hard to find kingdom.

- Finds what he's looking for- ONE PEARL! (One way to God)
- Sells all to buy pearl. Sacrifices all for kingdom.
- Or: Pearl of great value to Jesus. Beautiful to Jesus.
- One person is of great value to Jesus. Would die just for one!

So What?

- I am a pearl to God. I am beautiful to him, and He values me!
- God wants me in his family. He went after me because he loves me so much!
- Will I put his kingdom first?

Matthew 13: 47-50 (*Parable of the Net*) Who Is Jesus?

- Fisherman. Wants to catch, gather fish.
- Wants kingdom full of people

Who Is Man?

- Like fish in a net
- Variety of people in kingdom. Fish "of every kind" v. 47.
- Will be sorted at end of world v.48
- 2 kinds of people: wicked and righteous (in right standing with God by faith) v. 49
- Wicked will be thrown into fiery furnace. Will experience weeping, grinding of teeth in pain in hell
- Good fish are protected

Who Are Angels?

- Sort the wicked people from righteous at end of world.
- Throw wicked into hell- fiery furnace

So What?

- God loves variety. Do I love all kinds of people like he does?
- God wants all to be saved. Wants kingdom full of people. (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9)

- Hell is real. Those who choose not to repent and believe will experience eternal sorrow and pain
- I should be motivated to pray for unsaved family members, friends and to share truth with them

Matthew 13:52 (*Parable of New and Old Treasures*) Who Is Jesus?

- New treasure. Valuable!
- Give fresh revelation

Who Is Man?

- Student of the Scriptures
- Teacher of religious law (scribe). Helps people find treasure from OT
- Can be changed from OT teacher and interpreter to disciple in kingdom
- Disciple in kingdom- models his life after Jesus
- Like wealthy householder- has storeroom filled with treasures
- We need old established truths and new fresh revelation. Both are treasures.

So What?

- We need to learn fresh revelation from Jesus without throwing out OT truths. Both are valuable.
- People can change and accept the new. Even “religious” people can change! (Saul became Paul!)
- Am I a disciple in the kingdom? Do I model my life after Jesus?