

WEEK 1 – Go and Do Likewise

Of Kings and Kingdoms

In the scriptures, Jesus is referred to as our king, sent to establish his kingdom in a dying world. A kingdom naturally reflects the values of the king, and the values reflect his/her character. When you have ultimate authority, it doesn't give you much room to hide the quality of your character. There are many examples throughout history of kings and rulers who have sought to serve themselves and not their people.

Thankfully, Jesus has made it clear that His Kingdom does not follow the rules of earthly kings and queens. He is before all things; leading, protecting, ruling, and providing for his people. Where earthly kings serve themselves, Jesus flips the world upside down.

Instead of a king demanding to be served, he served.

Instead of a king demanding to be loved, he loved.

Instead of a king demanding sacrifice, he sacrificed.

He left heaven to establish and model the values of His kingdom, so that we, as citizens, could “go and do likewise.”

This life group series is meant to ignite your faith by learning the heart of your king. Because we know that as we get closer to him, we will be empowered to love, serve, and sacrifice as he did. You are never more like Christ than when you're serving.

Questions:

When you think of the Kingdom of God, what comes to mind?

What are the first characteristics that come to mind when you think of Jesus?

Read Luke 4:14-21

What do verses 18 and 19 reveal about the type of King Jesus is?

Which statement does your heart align with most?

Jesus physically restored sight to the blind. He set captives free from their physical ailments. He saw and served the materially poor. These are all physical pictures of the spiritual captivity, poverty, and oppression we face in this broken world. What does it look like to understand these verses figuratively?

Read: Mark 15:16-20, 25-32

Jesus is mocked for not living up to the worldly standards of a king. There's a cost to this type of living. What does this teach us about the cost of the kingdom?

Is Jesus worth following?

How does Jesus' example of sacrifice ignite your faith to go and do likewise?

Personal Reflection:

This week we want to challenge you to ponder for yourself what it means that King Jesus laid his life down for you so that you could experience a better kingdom and have the privilege of being a builder of it.

Journal out your thoughts to these questions:

1. How has Jesus loved, served, and sacrificed for me? How does that change my heart to go and do likewise?
2. What does it mean that I get to participate in the kingdom?
3. Read Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). What surprised me and inspired me about Jesus's explanation of what his kingdom should look like?