



The Seven: Kingdom

November 5 | Group Discussion Guide

Begin with prayer, some opening questions, and an exercise (20 minutes).

Spend a few moments in prayer, thanking God for your time together and asking him to work during your conversation.

Then, ask, "What do you sense is your purpose in life?" and, "Has your sense of what your purpose is ever changed throughout your life? If so, describe the change and what precipitated it." Have everyone share a response.

Finally, lead your group in an imaginative prayer exercise through **Matthew 4:12-25**.

- Have everyone get comfortable. Instruct them to close their eyes and take a few deep, calming breaths.
- After a few moments, read **Matthew 4:12-25** slowly and intentionally the whole way through. This passage describes Jesus beginning his ministry, calling his first disciples by the Sea of Galilee into mission, and the beginnings of the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God.
- Once finished, ask, "What stood out to you from this reading about Jesus, joining him in mission, or the Kingdom of God?"

Break into a smaller group to converse about the sermon and the topic of "Kingdom" (25 minutes).

- What does the concept of the "Kingdom of God" mean, and how does it shape your understanding of your purpose in life?
- Have you ever had a specific experience or moment when you felt a deep connection with God's mission, and if so, how did it impact your life and sense of purpose?
- In what ways did Dan's sermon challenge, confirm, or deepen your understanding of the Kingdom?
- How do you envision your legacy in the context of God's Kingdom, and what steps are you taking to ensure your life's work reflects your commitment to this mission?
- In his sermon, Dan challenged us to view the Kingdom through the lens of **faith** and **mission**. How do those relate to the theme of Kingdom?
- What are some of the challenges or obstacles you've faced in aligning your life with God's mission and purpose, and how have you navigated them?
- How would you like to see God's Kingdom come in your life, your family, your workplace, etc.? And how are you planning on being a conduit of that yourself?

Transition back to one large group and discuss (10 minutes).

Ask a few questions about each person's time in their smaller groups:

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions? What lingering questions do you have about loving God?
- How is God inviting you to respond after tonight's discussion?

Finish with logistics and prayer (5 minutes).

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotions available to help you walk through our church's seven priorities! You can find those materials at thecreek.org/devotionals.
2. Finish your group session with prayer requests and specifically pray for God's kingdom to come "on earth as it is in heaven."