

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: Nourish and Grow Women's Retreat April 13th-14th at Mission Hills; Ministry Partners needed for Children, Student, Music and Media Tech. Baptisms are on April 29th between services.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *God* – God's kingdom is the realm in which his will is done, and he is in the presence of his people in and through the King, Jesus.
- *Man* – Human beings are spiritually blind and cannot see God's kingdom, and therefore are subject to the power of a different kingdom.
- *Church* – The church is the concrete presence of the kingdom on earth, the place where his will is being done, and where he reigns through King Jesus in the midst of his people

Key Observations

- What was anything that stood out to you about this week's sermon, or what did you take away?

- *Read:* Matthew 13:10-17; 34-35; Matthew 4:17; 6:10; Luke 17:20-21;
 - In reading these passages what do you notice about the presence of God's kingdom?
 - Notice also the context of Jesus' explanation of the purpose of the parables in Matthew 13:10-11, what is significant about that?
- *Read:* Read Matthew 13:10-17; 6:33; 2 Corinthians 4:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-3
 - What do these passages have to say about why people can't see God's kingdom?
 - How do the parables of Jesus function in relation to people's blindness?
- *Read:* Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:18, 43
 - What makes the proclamation of the kingdom of God "good news/gospel"?

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Matthew 19:14.