

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: The Belong Class (church membership) starts again May 20th. Sign up this Sunday.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *God*—God is a gracious King who loves to share his kingdom.
- *Salvation*—Salvation is a free gift of God's grace. It is received by faith. Faith entails both surrender and embrace.

Key Observations

- *Read: Matthew 13:44-46, 6:19-21*
 - What do these passages teach us about the value of the kingdom of God?
Jesus clearly tells us that the kingdom of God is of immeasurable value. It is in fact of eternal value. It is not only of more value presently, but its value is enduring. It's worth and reward is far greater than any earthly thing.
 - What are you prone to treasure most in life? In short, do you value something above God's kingdom?
Invite your group to honestly reflect on their lives and share.

- *Read: Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 6:23*
 - What do these passages tell us about the offer and availability of the kingdom? Can we buy it with our valuables or our virtues, or is it a free gift?
Paul makes concrete in Romans 6:23 what the prophet Isaiah poetically paints a picture of in Isaiah 55. Namely, that the gift of the kingdom, salvation in Christ, is a free gift. We get the "water" we need, as Isaiah says, by buying it with the "no money" that we have.
 - What does this idea of it costing nothing tell us about God's grace?
Invite your group to reflect on the radicalism of God's grace. Invite them to consider how this grace first met them.
- *Read: Matthew 16:24-26, Philippians 3:7-11*
 - What do these passages teach us about the costliness of the kingdom?
The paradox of what Jesus teaches us about the kingdom is born out in these passages. While the kingdom is offered freely in grace, it does cost us our lives. It demands of us a rejection of our own self-made kingdom, and an embrace of the riches of God's kingdom.

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 6:21.
-