

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 3 - The Kingdom

Summary of this week's teaching: In this week's teaching we explored what the scriptures say about the kingdom. Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus spent the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:6 tells us that Jesus' disciples asked Him one last question before He ascended into heaven: "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? Clearly the kingdom was on the forefront of everyone's minds. But what is it? Who gets into the kingdom, and how? Thankfully God's Word supplies much needed clarity on the subject.

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What is your favorite fantasy kingdom, and why? (e.g. Naria, Middle-earth, Hyrule, etc.)

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 1:1-11, Isaiah 9:2-7, Revelation 1:4-8.

1. When Jesus and His disciples use the term "kingdom" are they thinking the same thing? Why or why not? What scriptures form your opinion?
2. What can we learn about the kingdom and its king from the prophecy found in Isaiah 9?
3. Revelation 1 paints a beautiful picture of the kingdom of God. What can we learn about that kingdom from this passage?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. How have you been personally connecting with the Lord lately? What has He been speaking to you/teaching you?
2. Jesus is the king of an eternal kingdom. Does viewing Jesus as king challenge your understanding of Him?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Please read John 3:1-8, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What role does faith play in the kingdom? What else do these passages teach us about the kingdom?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Finally, please read John 18:1-4. What does it mean to "turn and become like children" so that we may enter the kingdom of heaven?
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