



THE  
**KINGDOM**  
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

## *Small Group Discussion Guide*

### **Week of February 7 - A Master Narrative**

#### **Chapters 1 & 2**

**Scripture Verse: Mark 1:15, Matthew 6:33**

#### **OPENING QUESTION**

Introduce yourself and share what you hope to gain from this 8-week study of The Kingdom?

#### **LOOKING UP**

On pp. 32-33, Jeremy Treat states, "...it is possible to have Christian beliefs yet still live by another narrative.... We can identify as a Christian and go to church on Sundays. Yet in our day-to-day lives we may still be living by a secular narrative that is about building your own kingdoms." Do you think he is right? Can you think of some examples that might illustrate his point?

Mark 1:15  
Matthew 6:33

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTERS ONE & TWO  
A Master Narrative

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The passage this week challenges us to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." What will you do this week to put God's Kingdom first?

## Week of February 14 - The Unmatchable Kingdom

### Chapter 3

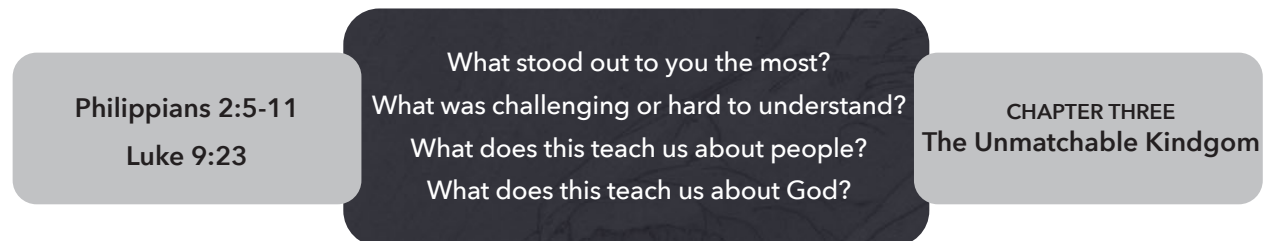
Scripture Verse: **Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 9:23**

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to take action in Keeping God's Kingdom first. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

What kind of portrait do you have of Jesus? A cosmic vending machine p. 46, a divine cheerleader p. 46, a heavenly firefighter p. 47 or king of the Kingdom pp. 47-48? Describe your view of Jesus. (Servant, Storyteller, Crucified Savior, Resurrected King)



#### LOOKING FORWARD

As you have been reviewing the different portraits of Jesus how can you intentionally draw closer to him this week?

## Week of February 21 - The Majestic in the Mundane

### Chapter 4

Scripture Verse: Colossians 1:15-20, 3:23, Romans 11:36

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to see a fresh perspective of Jesus through several options. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

If Jesus is after our hearts, then what might it look like for you to give him your allegiance at the beginning of every day, that is, "to set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts" daily (cf. 1 Peter 3:15)?

Colossians 1:15-20, 3:23  
Romans 11:36

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTER FOUR  
The Majestic  
in the Mundane

#### LOOKING FORWARD

When we don't give everything over to Jesus, we're still the one who is in control. We essentially are acting as our own king and using Jesus to accomplish our goals. During this week, how are you able to show Jesus is Lord over your work, your home, your neighborhood, your life?

## Week of February 28 - Following Jesus

### Chapter 5

Scripture Verse: Luke 9:23-27 / Acts 4:13 / Matthew 4:19 / 1 John 2:6

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to put your eyes on Jesus and demonstrate that Jesus is Lord over your life through multiple actions. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

"Behavior is an overflow of the heart, and the way we live reflects what we love. Our behavior is like the "check engine" light on the dashboard of a car." (p.93) What intentional actions are you doing to get to know Christ and obey what he says?

Luke 9:23-27 / Acts 4:13  
Matthew 4:19 / 1 John 2:6

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTER FIVE  
Following Jesus

#### LOOKING FORWARD

What's regularly getting in the way of you drawing closer to Jesus? How will you live intentionally by setting aside that obstacle and following Jesus?

## Week of March 7 - Seeking Community

### Chapter 6

Scripture Verse: Acts 1:1-8 / Acts 2:42-47 / Genesis 2:18

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to intentionally get closer to Jesus and obey what he reveals in scripture. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

"The mission of the church is not limited to making disciples who simply know how to pray and study the Bible. We need disciples who can represent the king in ALL of life, including the spheres in which we work, live, and play. The church is to make disciples who are salt and light in the world, who love their neighbors, who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." (p. 109) How are you contributing to the mission of the church personally or as a small group?

Acts 1:1-8 / Acts 2:42-47  
Genesis 2:18

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTER SIX  
Seeking Community

#### LOOKING FORWARD

"When you join a church, you are stepping into a stream of the Lords constant work of bringing his reign on earth as it is in heaven. The church is not a building you go to; it's a people you go with. The church is not an event you attend; it's a mission you join. The church is not a club you sign up for; it's a family you're a part of." (p.111) How can you or small group become more intentional with Jesus' mission to make disciples."

## Week of March 14 - Pursuing Justice

### Chapter 7

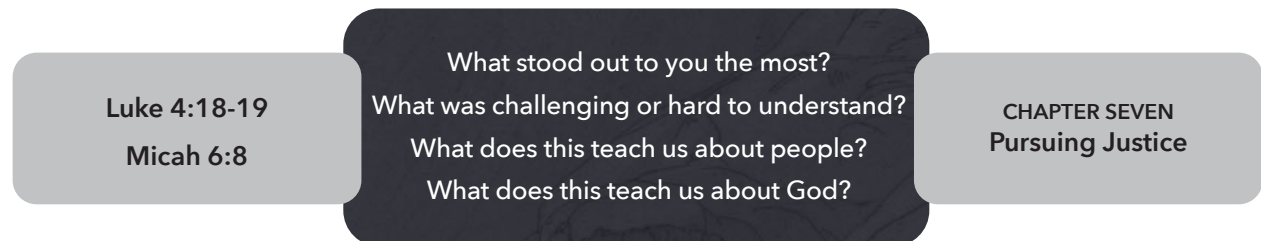
Scripture Verse: Luke 4:18-19, Micah 6:8

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, your group was challenged to become more intentional with Jesus' mission to make disciples." How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

On p. 129, Jeremy Treat says, "...the gospel creates a people who seek mercy and justice. Why? Because the gospel gives us eyes to see others the way God does and gives new hearts that motivate us to be involved in the work of justice that God is doing. The gospel gets to the heart, drawing us to God and into God's mission. The more we understand the gospel, the more we are drawn into Christ's heart for the oppressed and hurting. "How have you seen the Church thrive or struggle in the pursuit of mercy and justice for the oppressed and hurting?



#### LOOKING FORWARD

Jeremy Treat presents four basic action steps we can take to be part of pursuing justice: listen, learn, speak, and act (p. 130-132). What action will you take this week to pursue justice in one of these ways?

## Week of March 21- Sons and Daughters

### Chapter 8

Scripture Verse: Genesis 1:26-27

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to listen, learn, speak or act in pursuit of justice. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

On page 144, Jeremy Treat says, "He is our Father, and we are adopted as his children. Adoption not only changes our view of God it also shapes the way we see ourselves. We are beloved children, adopted into God's royal family and given all the rights and inheritance of the Kings kids." How does knowing that you are adopted by God and a part of his royal family effect your daily life?

Genesis 1:26-27

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTER EIGHT  
Sons and Daughters

#### LOOKING FORWARD

On page 52, Jeremy Treat explains how "moral commands are based on gospel declarations" such as Ephesians 4:32 (forgive others because you have been forgiven), 1 John 4:19 (love others because you have been loved, and Romans 6:11-12 (stop sinning because you have been freed from sin). What is one thing you will do differently this week based on the truth of these Gospel declarations?

## Week of March 28 - Sojourners and Exiles

### Chapter 9

Scripture Verse: Jeremiah 29:4-7,11

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to apply a Gospel Declaration to your life. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

In chapter nine, Jeremy Treat explains that the Kingdom of God is experiencing global growth while Cultural Christianity is declining in the West. Do you agree or disagree with his assessment and why?

Jeremiah 29:4-7,11

What stood out to you the most?  
What was challenging or hard to understand?  
What does this teach us about people?  
What does this teach us about God?

CHAPTER NINE  
Sojourners and Exiles

#### LOOKING FORWARD

On page 167, Jeremy Treat says that, "Wherever you are, be present, let your light shine, and seek the peace of the city that God has called you to in this season of your life" What is one thing you will do this week to be present in the places you live your life (neighborhood, workplace, etc)?



## Week of April 4 - Saints and Sinners

### Chapters 10 & Your Kingdom Come

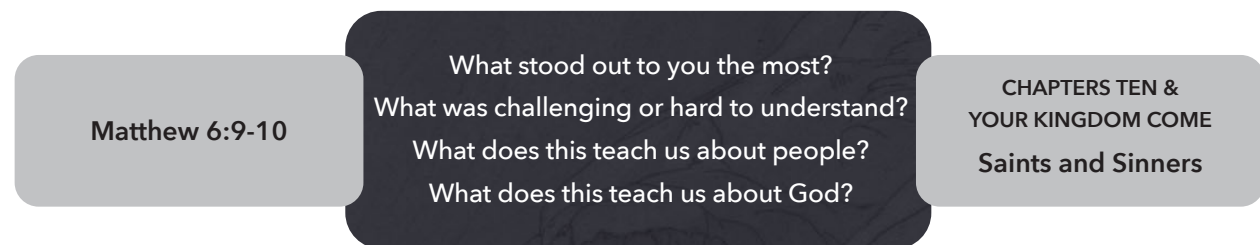
Scripture Verse: Matthew 6:9-10

#### LOOKING BACK

Last week, you were challenged to do something that would allow you to be present in the places you live your life. How did you do?

#### LOOKING UP

On page 172, Jeremy Treat says "...by God's grace we have been saved from the penalty of sin, we are being saved from the power of sin, and we will be saved from the presence of sin." What in this description stands out to you? Do you agree or disagree with his assessment and why?



#### LOOKING FORWARD

On page 189, Jeremy challenges his readers to pray, "Your kingdom come in my life. Your kingdom come in my family. Your Kingdom come in our church. Your kingdom come in our city. Your kingdom come in this world." Are you ready to pray this prayer? How will you prepare yourself for the role you play in God's response?

## *Notes*

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## *Leaders' Guide* The following information will help you lead your group.

### **Before Your Group Meets**

- Encourage your group members to obtain a copy of Jeremy Treat's book, *Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything*. Books can be picked up on the weekends for a suggested donation of \$10.00 or participants can download a copy of the e-book at [cccgo.com/info](http://cccgo.com/info).
- Encourage your group members to read the chapters being discussed and listen to the sermon from the previous weekend prior to your group meeting. Recordings of the sermons can be found at [media.cccgo.com](http://media.cccgo.com).
- Download and print off copies of *The Kingdom Small Group Discussion Guides* for the members of your group. The Discussion Guides can be found at (website).
- Contact your group members and remind them of your meeting time and location.

### **When your Group Meets**

- If your group is large, consider breaking into smaller groups for the discussion.
- Questions are intended to be answered by all members of the group.
- Do not be afraid of silence. Allow time for your group members to process and think before moving on to the next question.
- Encourage your members to read along with the book and listen to the weekly sermons but do not exclude them from the discussion if they are unable to.

### **During your Meeting**

The weekly meetings are broken into three parts: Looking Back, Looking Up, and Looking Forward.

#### **LOOKING BACK**

In this section, you will discuss the challenge that was presented the previous week. Check in to see if each person had the opportunity to follow through on those challenges and celebrate their successes. If someone has not followed through with their challenge from the previous week, encourage them to do so in the upcoming week.

#### **LOOKING UP**

In this section, you will have the opportunity discuss the content of the chapter(s) your group read as well as the Scripture passage(s) that are foundational to those chapter. First, take time to read the Scripture passage(s) and answer the four questions. Then, ask those same four questions about the chapter(s) from the book.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

This section is intended to encourage each person to identify one action they will do in the upcoming week in response to the chapter and Scripture passages. Allow time for each person to share their intended response. Encourage your group members to be specific in their intended response and how they will accomplish it. Write down their responses on paper to review their commitment the following week. Take time to pray for each person and the specific ways they will respond in the upcoming week.

## *Weekly Leaders' Notes*

### **Week of February 7 - A Master Narrative**

#### **Book Reading: Chapters 1 & 2**

**Scripture Verse: Mark 1:15, Matthew 6:33**

#### **OPENING QUESTION**

Since this is the first week of the study, there is no Looking Back section in the discussion guide. Instead, there is an Opening Question to allow for introductions and help you get an understanding of what your group participants hope to gain during their time in your group.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The following are some prompts that might be useful as you guide your group members towards specific and action-oriented responses to the question.

- Set aside 5 minutes to pray, asking Jesus to open my eyes to His Kingdom.
- Listen to a sermon or podcast on the Kingdom of God.
- Begin my day by reading a chapter of the Bible.
- Show love to my neighbor by giving assistance to someone (be specific about what this would look like).

### **Week of February 14 - The Unmatchable Kingdom**

#### **Book Reading: Chapter 3**

**Scripture Verse: Philippians 5:5-11, Luke 9:23**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Here are some ideas of action steps a person could take:

- Begin reading one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) with a friend to see a fresh perspective of Jesus
- Memorize one of sections of the Sermon on the Mount
- Go to <https://bibleproject.com> and watch 3 different videos about Jesus and his kingdom
- Have a discussion with a co-worker about his/her view of Jesus
- Start a conversation at the dinner table about Jesus' life, Jesus' miracles, Jesus' teachings, or Jesus' last 50 days on earth.
- While praying, invite the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus' character throughout your day.

## **Week of February 21 - The Majestic in the Mundane**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 4**

**Scripture Verse: Colossians 1:15-20, 3:23**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Here are some ideas of action steps a person could take.

- Consider an act of service you will do for a co-worker, your boss, an employee and do it anonymously.
- While working... pay close attention to your words (negative, complaining, etc.) ...only saying things that benefit those listening.
- Find a worship song that will motivate you to see things through the heart of Jesus... play it at the beginning of your workday.
- Place a scripture that will remind you to keep your eyes on Jesus during your day. (memorize the verse)
- Using a dry erase marker... Write on a mirror in your bathroom a quote from scripture, or a motivational thought... "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." Colossians 3:16
- Make a lunch appointment with Jesus and spend that time uninterrupted to read God's word

## **Week of February 28 - Following Jesus**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 5**

**Scripture Verse: Luke 9:23-27 / Acts 4:13 / Matthew 4:19 / 1 John 2:6**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Here are some ideas of action steps a person could take.

- Memorize any section of Jesus' teaching out of Matthew 5, 6 or 7.
- Place one of these phrases on your car dashboard, mirror, or work desk, "Because of the gospel, we're motivated not by guilt but by gratitude." ...or... "What God commands in obedience, he provides for with his power."
- Meditate on Jesus' command from Matthew 28:18-20 and consider how you can put this into practice with someone near you at home, at work, or in your neighborhood.
- At your dinner table read this verse, John 14:21... then ask a family member or friend what Jesus meant.
- Prayer walk in your neighborhood asking the Holy Spirit to lead your thoughts for ways to live and love like Jesus to someone you meet.
- In prayer, invite the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that you need to submit to Jesus and obey him.

## **Week of March 7- Seeking Community**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 6**

**Scripture Verse: Acts 2:42-47 / Genesis 2:18**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Here are some ideas of action steps a person could take:

- Sign-up and get your small group to join you for training that will equip you to make disciples. Email Mark Silen for details [msilen@cccgo.com](mailto:msilen@cccgo.com).
- At a dinner table discuss Jeremy Treat's portrait of church life. Is the church a cruise ship or battleship? Read pp.114-115 for review.
- Re-engage in actively caring for each of the members of your small group. Intentionally text, call, email or make a video call.
- Call your small group leader and pray for his/her life as a shepherd of the group. Then ask how you can help with shepherding the group too.

## **Week of March 14 - Pursuing Justice**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 7**

**Scripture Verse: Luke 4:18-19, Micah 6:8**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Consider reading through the four action steps (listen, learn, speak, and act) on pages 130-132 together to help guide in answering the Look Forward question.

- The pursuit of justice can be new and overwhelming to many people. Encourage your group to consider their first step in that pursuit. We might not be able to do everything, but we can all do something (p. 130)
- Some action oriented and results driven people in your group may gravitate towards speak and act responses when they should start by taking steps to listen and learn.

Encourage your group to listen and learn before speaking and action.

## **Week of March 21 - Sons and Daughters**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 8**

**Scripture Verse: Genesis 1:26-27**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Consider other gospel declarations that are found in Scripture when deciding on action steps.

While some people will be ready to take action to live out the reality of who they are in Christ, others might struggle with the belief that what the Bible says about them is true. If someone needs to take a step towards belief, encourage them to consider how their actions might help them in that process.

Here are some examples of ways a person can take action steps that would shape their beliefs about themselves:

- Start a list of "God's truths about me" in which you write down a truth found in the Bible every day (ie. I am made in the image of God, I am a child of God, etc).
- Put a post it note on your mirror to reminding you that you are a loved child of God made in his image.
- If they are overwhelmed by the toxic lies of someone in their life, they could reach out to a trusted friend or professional to help them process those lies and learn ways to respond to them (counseling, freedom prayer, support groups, etc).

## **Week of March 28 - Sojourners and Exiles**

### **Book Reading: Chapter 9**

**Scripture Verse: Jeremiah 29:4-7,11**

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The following are some ideas of what action steps might look like.

- Initiating a conversation with a neighbor whom they have not connected with.
- Remove busyness from your schedule so you have more time with the people you are doing life with that is organic and relational.
- Take a walk around your neighborhood and ask God to open your eyes to the people you live around.
- Arrive to work or meetings early so you have time for meaningful conversations before you get to business.

There will not be a sermon covering chapter ten, but a discussion guide covering that chapter and the section titled Your Kingdom Come will be available if your group wants to continue meeting.

Consider ways your group will continue meeting and working together to grow in understanding and pursuing the Kingdom of God.



## **Week of April 4 - Saints and Sinners**

### **Book Reading: Chapters 10 & Your Kingdom Come**

#### **Scripture Verse: Matthew 6:9-10**

There will not be a sermon that covers Chapter ten, but your group is welcome to use this guide as an additional time together.

Consider ways your group will continue meeting and working together to grow in understanding and pursuing the Kingdom of God.

## *Notes*

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