



Part 3: The Kingdom of God is Wherever Jesus Rules

Note: We have provided you with more questions than you will likely need. Please don't feel pressure to talk about every question. Use the ones that you feel will be most useful in generating discussion in your group. We've designed this curriculum to be as user-friendly as possible. We've divided each week into "Hear," "Discuss," and "Apply" sections. In the different sections there will be passages of Scripture to read, notes to read to your group, and questions to ask.

Icebreaker

Ask

Share a time when you felt like you were not properly trained or equipped for a task that was in front of you. Share a time when you worked hard to prepare for something and found that your preparation paid off.

What stuck out to you from the sermon?

Hear

Say

Early in the message, Pastor Lance quoted Matthew 16:18-19, where Jesus said, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

In this video clip, Pastor Lance talks about different types of "gates" that hold people captive. He also states that when we proclaim the Kingdom we set people free who are trapped behind these "gates."

Play

Watch the first video clip that is on at www.bridgeway.church/litk

Leaders' note: Here is are the five "gates" that Lance refers to in the clip.

- 1. Guilt and shame- A trap, a vicious cycle of recognizing the badness within us and condemning ourselves. (Romans 8:1)*
- 2. Sin and death- Our sin condemns us to death and damnation. therefore, death takes on an ominous tone and inspires fear. We'll do anything to avoid it. (Romans 7:6, 23-25)*
- 3. Fear and worry- When things aren't in our control we panic. Satan can play off of those fears demonstrating to us how limited we really are to make any changes. (2 Cor. 10:5)*
- 4. Sickness and disease- These lead not just to frustration, but to fear of death again. Pain, suffering and hurt diminishes our lives and we search for meaning and reprieve at all costs. (Matt. 4:23; John 11:25)*
- 5. Spiritual strongholds- We begin life spiritually shut down and separated from God, and as we grow older God reveals Himself more and more. (Romans 8:38-39; Col. 1:13)*

Ask

- Which of these gates do you most frequently see holding back people around you? What lies do you see people believing, and how do these lies keep people captive?

LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM GROUPS

- Which of these gates is the greatest struggle in your own life?

Say

In the message Pastor Lance also talked about the concept of eternal life. In this clip he helps us understand what eternal life actually is.

Play

Watch the second video clip that is on at www.bridgeway.church/litk

Ask

- “It’s a quality of life, not merely a duration.” What difference can it make in our lives when we have that understanding of eternal life? What do we risk missing if we believe eternal life only begins after we die?

Discuss

Say

Later in the message Pastor Lance raised the question, “Can everyone do this work of setting people free?” Is it possible for all of us to participate in God's work in this way?

Read

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

“Now there are varieties of gifts,...service,...activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge...to another faith...to another gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

Play

LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM GROUPS

Watch the third video clip that is on at www.bridgeway.church/litk

Ask

- What do the passage and video clip teach us about our ability to participate in God's work in the world?
- When you think about using your gifts to expand the Kingdom and see people set free, what excites you? What makes you afraid or uncertain?
- If spiritual gifts are Kingdom tools, how do they equip us to participate in God's work in the world?
- Pastor Lance asked us to write down the phrase, "I have been given more than enough," and later he said "God's calling is God's enabling." Do you believe you've been given enough to do what God has called you to do? Describe what it looks like to live with the mindset that God has equipped you for what He's called you to do

Apply

Ask

- Pastor Lance said in the message that we are not meant to be the only free people in our neighborhoods. We're also meant to bring freedom to others. What does this look like practically?
- Pastor Lance asked us, "What does your neighbor want to be free from?" In answering, don't share personal or identifying details about your neighbors or others who you interact with, but share as specifically as possible about where you see them needing freedom. How can you partner with God to help bring them freedom? (Share the example below if it is helpful)
- *Example: I see a lot of people in my office who don't find a lot of joy in their work, and I would love to help them to see that when they do their jobs it is their way of participating in God's work in the world.*

Close

- Jesus is the one who makes us free, and we're not meant to keep that freedom for ourselves. Spend some time together praying for your neighbors, and praying for each

other that God would use you in the lives of your neighbors to help them experience God's freedom.

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