

JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

LENT 2023 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 2: JESUS AND THE DIFFERENT KINGDOM

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

The Kingdom of God isn't a place, it's the activity of the King.

The different kingdom of Jesus is a "**who**" question, not a "how" question.

The centerpiece of Jesus' different kingdom is a loving, giving God.

~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read John 3:1-17. Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus about the kingdom from above and how it is different than any earthly kingdom.

Read Exodus chapter 5:1,6-9 & chapter 13:3-10,17,21-22. Two different kingdoms are on display: one of force and oppression and maintaining institutions (ch 5), and one of invitation, shared meals, and mobility and responsiveness (ch 13).

Read Revelation 7:9-17. A picture of the different kingdom of God finally realized.

DISCUSSION

- **Who** do you know God to be, and what difference does that make? How would you describe the God you've experienced?
- What one word or phrase describes how you are experiencing God right now in your life? **Who** is God to you in this season?
- This different kingdom is offered to all through "testimony" (see John 3:11). How would you share with others in need of this good news about **who** you have experienced God to be?
- What is the Spirit impressing upon you to do specifically to help realize the different kingdom of God more fully on earth?

ARTICLES

For Further Study:

Scripture records hundreds of ways of describing **WHO** God is, and what God is like. A few here: https://www.openbible.info/topics/character_of_god

Which resonates most with you right now in how you are experiencing God in your life?

PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the **kingdom**, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

TAKE-AWAY

Identify five specific ways you can embody this different kingdom in your life (work, school, family, communities, relationships, etc.) this week.

Pray for five people God draws to mind who might need the experience of the God of this different kingdom.