



"A PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM"

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSER

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

GENESIS 1:26-28; 3:14-15; 3:21-24, 12:1-3, EXODUS 19:5-6, JOHN 3:16-18, 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18; 5:20-21, 1 PETER 2:9-10, HEBREWS 11:13-16

In this first message of the series, we look at an idea that dominated Jesus' preaching: the Kingdom of Heaven has come! Upon hearing that, we might ask, "What kingdom, and what does it mean to be a people of that Kingdom?" As we dig deeper, we see that Jesus taught about his Kingdom as unlike any on earth, because it's not of Earth. It's of Heaven.

And if we follow King Jesus, we are citizens of his Kingdom of Heaven. Which means that we live as a people of love during a time stained by hatred. We live as a people of peace in an era of constant war. We live as a people of righteous power in a time when authority over others is abused. We live as a people of justice amidst persistent injustice. We live as a people who are free during mask mandates, restrictions, and political oppression. And finally, we live as a people of truth during a time when misinformation and propaganda dominate public discourse.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Did you ever start a project only to have it go horribly wrong? What was that like?
2. How did you recover when you realized that your project wasn't going to work out as you planned?
3. Share one high point and one low one from the past week.

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In Genesis 1:26-28, what is unique about the way God created humans?
2. How does God provide a covering for Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:21?
3. In Genesis 3:22-24 what does God conclude about humans?
4. What does God predict in Genesis 3:14-15?
5. What promise does Abram receive from God in Genesis 12
6. How are God's people described in Exodus 19
7. How are Jesus people described in 2 Cor. 5 and 1 Peter 2?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Where do you see contemporary political leaders establishing their "image?" How might this be similar to the kings and kingdoms of the Ancient Near East?
2. What frustrates you about current political leaders, "kings" if you will? How are their failings reflected in your own character?
3. How do you think an elite "royal priesthood" might be perceived by others in our current culture, and why?
4. What do you see as the most important function of any ambassador who serves a current country or kingdom?
5. How might you sustain hope, like that described in Hebrews 11, when what you hope for seems so far off?

CONTINUED:

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. When Pastor Alex described God's work among his people in history, he repeatedly observed that Israel's failing were his too. He saw their sin in himself. Do you, and if so, how? If not, why not?
2. What are your expectations about your place in God's Kingdom?
3. When you hear of the qualities that mark people as part of God's Kingdom (love, peace, power, justice, freedom, truth) how well do you think they describe you and why?
4. If you're super honest, what are you an ambassador for? The company you work for? Your family? Insta or TikTok?
5. Does it frustrate you to wait for the fullness of God's Kingdom, even while Jesus says it's right here and right now? Why or why not?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Take some time alone and list each quality of Heaven's Kingdom (love, peace, power, justice, freedom, truth). Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where these qualities are manifesting in your life —even if it's in small ways. Then, thank God for these expressions of his Kingdom in and through you.
2. Pray each morning of the coming week for the opportunity to act as an ambassador for the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray also for sensitivity to the Spirit's leading as God answers your prayer. Record that day's interaction in your journal as a record of God's faithfulness.