

AS ABOVE SO BELOW

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, Hallowed be your
name, your kingdom come, your will be

done, on earth as it is in heaven; give
us today our daily bread, and forgive

us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors, and lead us not into temp-

tation, but deliver us from the evil one.
MATTHEW 6:9-13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BRING THE KINGDOM

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: January 18, 2026

TEXT(S): tbd

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Pastor Russell shows us how Jesus' prayer, "Your kingdom come, your will be done," confronts our deep commitment to ourselves, expressed as self-love, self-rule, and self-expression. This bent is shaped by modern individualism, politics, and consumer culture. While Jesus' confrontation feels distant to the comfortable, it resonates powerfully with those who live with their "backs against the wall." Drawing on this idea of Howard Thurman's, and how it relates to the Romans of Jesus' day, the teaching shows that Christ offers a way to get one's back off that wall. God's Kingdom. It begins within, through surrender to Jesus. This surrender is daily, personal, and transformative, capturing our hearts, relationships, and world as Jesus' reign moves from the inside of us outward.

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. When you hear the word "kingdom," what images or emotions come to mind?
2. Where do you most value personal freedom in your life?
3. What does "having your back against the wall" mean to you personally?
4. Who taught you how to pray, either directly or indirectly?
5. What lines of Jesus's prayer feel most natural to you? Which feels hardest?

LOOK DOWN: These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus places "your kingdom come" before daily needs in the prayer?
2. How does Luke 4:17–21 define the content of God's will?
3. What do Peter's encounters with Jesus reveal about surrender over time?
4. How does Jesus' understanding of the Kingdom differ from political power?
5. What do Matthew 10:1 and Acts 1:6–8 suggest about authority in the Kingdom?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does the idea of expressive individualism conflict with praying “your will be done”?
2. In what ways does democracy shape how we imagine authority and freedom?
3. How does consumer culture train us to relate to the idea of surrender?
4. Why might marginalized people in unstable or persecuted contexts feel this prayer more deeply?
5. How does the Cross challenge both political and personal visions of change?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where do you sense resistance to Jesus’ reign in your life?
2. What would it mean for you to say honestly, “Jesus, you win”?
3. Which emotions (fear, pride, shame, or control, for example) are hardest for you to surrender?
4. How might Jesus want His Kingdom to shape your daily life and relationships?
5. What would the most complete dependence possible on Jesus look like for you this week?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Each morning, slowly pray, “Jesus, you are King today,” naming one area (whether work, relationships, or any key decisions facing you) where you intentionally yield to His loving authority.
2. Identify one person whose “back is against the wall,” emotionally, relationally, or materially, and take a concrete step to serve, pray for, or advocate for them in Jesus’ name.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources and a link to 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting here.](#)

