

## Small Group Discussion Guide — August 22, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
  - Sermon: Jesus and the Kingdom
  - Scripture: Mark 1:9-15, Matthew 5:1-12
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### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

1. How has the betrothal analogy that David used last week changed the way you think about your relationship with Jesus? How can we, the bride, actively engage in the betrothal?

### CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. What comes to mind when you think of a kingdom? Disney movies? Game of Thrones? What characterizes that kingdom?

### ENGAGE

1. Read Mark 1:9-11. How does the kingdom of God break through in this passage? Imagine you are John the Baptist witnessing this scene. How do you react?
2. Read Isaiah 61:1-9, and then Mark 1:12-15. What similarities do you see in these passages? Jesus ministered to so many different types of people. How might these different groups have heard the words in verse 15, and how might their understanding of these words, and the Kingdom of Heaven, changed over the course of Christ's ministry?
3. Read Matthew 5:3-12. How do understanding Christ's description of the Kingdom of God change your reading of what it means to be "blessed?"

### APPLY

1. One of the themes that emerged from the sermon is the contrast between the Kingdom of Heaven and earthly kingdoms. What are some of those differences? How are these differences manifested in your own life?
2. Dan talked about citizenship, exile, and loyalty. What would it look like for us to "seek first the Kingdom of God?" To make our citizenship in God's kingdom our first and most important citizenship, even while we are living in other kingdoms? How does this relate to the "Three I's (Identity Crises, Idols, Insecurity)?"

### PRAYER

Loving Father, we put so much stock in this world, in this life when you have invited us to focus on your Kingdom, for it is our eternal home. Thank you God for the promise of the Kingdom and that the trials of this life have been overcome by Jesus, so we can look forward to a glorious future with you. All praise and glory to you forever! Amen

**GOING DEEPER**

1. Dan discussed the history of the Israelites, and how that experienced shaped their expectations for the Kingdom of God. How have your own experiences shaped your expectations for God? How do those expectations align with the Kingdom of God as Jesus described it? How do you reconcile your expectations and God's love for you when they can appear to be so different?

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 5:1-12; Isaiah 61:1-9; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 6:9-13 Luke 4:21