





COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: We get to bring Heaven on Earth.

HEAD CHANGE: The ultimate destination is not “going to heaven when you die” but being bodily raised – Where your soul and your body are reinvented

HEART CHANGE: God is not “up and above” but “up ahead” drawing heaven toward us.

LIFE CHANGE: Those who belong to Jesus and follow Him are empowered by His Spirit and charged by His word with transforming the present in light of the future.

OVERVIEW

The Kingdom of Heaven Among Us

It is not up to us to build the kingdom, but we can build *for* the kingdom. As resurrection people who know that heaven and earth overlap, we can become agents of God’s beauty in a world that needs a song, a beautiful painting, a new dance, or a heart-touching poem. We can also stand for justice in a world where injustice seems to have a vise grip on so many people.

The resurrection of Jesus does not move us to a passive and sedentary life of waiting for God to show up some day in the distant future. The hope of the resurrection inspires and empowers Christians to stand strong, work hard, pray more fervently, and live with compassion. As the power of the resurrection fills our hearts, homes, and churches, we stand firm, we let nothing move us, we always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because we know our labor is not in vain!

Luke 17:20-21 (NIV)- One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ **For the Kingdom of God is already among you.**”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. In your own words, how would you describe what it means to “image God in your world”?
3. What are some of the “little things” we do in this life and world that can often go unnoticed, but are very valuable in the scope of God building his kingdom now and forever?
4. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:50 – 58. It might seem that, after all of Paul’s teaching on the resurrection, he would end this amazing argument with an invitation to relax and cruise our way into eternity. But he surprises us with a very different tone in verse 58. What exhortations does Paul give, and how should this stir our hearts and move us to action?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can’t do any of this without You. We ask that we may will see and feel how heaven is breaking into this life and how You are sovereign and at the controls of this earth ... even when things might seem confusing and troubling. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!