

LEVERAGE YOUR LIFE

LEADER GUIDE

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

BIG IDEA: Everything in our lives should center in and revolve around the King and His kingdom.

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, and Sunday, April 19, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:31-33; Revelation 5:9-10; Matthew 24:14

CONNECT

What are the first things you do each morning? Why are these things first? What happens to your day if you leave one of these things out?

The truth is, what we seek first in our lives – whether it is our happiness, our children’s happiness, our success, our image – changes the trajectory of our days and of our lives. Today we are going to see God calls us to seek first His kingdom.

WATCH THE VIDEO

VIDEO OPTIONS:

- Watch the video together as a group using the YouTube app on the Roku streaming device in your LifeGroup room. The videos will be available on the Chets Creek Church YouTube channel. This week’s video is about 15 minutes long.
- Or watch the video on your own, take notes and share the highlights with your group. A link to the video can be found here: www.chetscreek.com/adults/lifegroups

What stood out to you in today’s video teaching?

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:31-33 (CSB)

³¹ So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Revelation 5:9-10 (CSB)

⁹ And they [the four living beings and the twenty-four elders] sang a new song with these words: “You (the Lamb) are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and

people and nation. ¹⁰ You made them a Kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Matthew 24:14 (CSB)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

DISCUSSION

DEFINE THE KINGDOM

In the teaching video, Vance Pitman defines it as "God's sovereign activity in the world resulting in people being in right relationship with Himself."

What does it mean to be a part of God's Kingdom? *First and foremost, it means submitting ourselves to the rule of the King. Everything in our lives should center in and revolve around the King and His kingdom. But being part of God's kingdom also means we have been caught up in a movement so much bigger than ourselves that it's hard to even wrap our minds around the scale.*

READ Matthew 6:31-33

What is the result of seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness? *(Everything else falls into its rightful place. We need not worry about day-to-day things.)*

Does everything in your life center in and revolve around the King and His kingdom? Why or why not? What obstacles or distractions shift your focus away from God's kingdom?

Add anything from the Additional Notes section at the end of this lesson that might be helpful.

RECAP THE "THREE PRACTICAL REALITIES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Kingdom is Believers

READ Revelation 5:9-10

We do not have to wait for some future kingdom to be established – it is here and now through everyone who has surrendered to Jesus -as King and savior. The kingdom can reign and rule on earth through God's people.

The Kingdom is Big

As seen in Revelation it is every tribe, language, people and nation.

How would you distinguish between your local church and God's broader kingdom? What's the difference?

We can get tunnel vision and judge the success of His kingdom based on what's happening in our local church - the rise and fall of worship attendance, LifeGroup commitment, baptisms, etc. Do you ever stop and notice what is happening globally and praise God for how He is moving? What have you seen that is happening in Jacksonville, at college campuses, or in other countries that you can praise God for?

The Kingdom is Being Built

READ Matthew 24:14

We are all called to be builders of His kingdom. What happens when the gospel reaches the whole world?

Think about your family, neighborhood, job, and hobbies. What's one step you can take each day to intentionally seek first the kingdom – something you're currently not doing? We are all called to prioritize His mission where we live, work, and play.

PRAYER RESPONSE

LEADERS: Spend time praying together as a group. Invite others to pray aloud as they feel comfortable.

When we seek God in prayer, He moves in power. Identify and celebrate how God is moving in the world. Pray Matthew 6:33 over your group: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Pray that we would seek His kingdom as we go about our week; that God would help us pursue righteousness; and He would guide us to center our lives in and around His kingdom. What a privilege it is to join Him in building it!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

LARGER THAN LIFE

What does it mean to be part of God's kingdom? First and foremost, it means submitting ourselves to the rule of the King. Everything in our lives should center in and revolve around the King and His kingdom. That's critical. But being part of God's kingdom also means we have been caught up in a movement so much bigger than ourselves that it's hard to even wrap our minds around the scale. Remember that the kingdom is believers, the kingdom is big, and the kingdom is being built.

Think about the chronological breadth of God's kingdom. The same God who spoke the universe into existence is the One who rules today. That kingdom has existed longer than our solar system. Longer than any star. Longer than time itself.

Consider the scope of personalities who have participated in God's kingdom work. Adam and Eve didn't start the kingdom of God; they were welcomed into it. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob each contributed in their own unique ways. Same with Moses and Joshua. Rahab and Ruth. David and Solomon. Isaiah and Daniel. Jesus' disciples continued the work of Elijah and Elisha. Paul, James, Aquilla, Priscilla, and Lydia were influential in the formation of the early church, but they were latecomers to God's kingdom. The same is true for Martin Luther, John Calvin, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Billy Graham.

Then there's folks like you, the other members of your group, and people in your church. You're all part of that same story. Citizens of that same kingdom. The kingdom of God is eternal. Joining in God's activity is joining in that which transcends time and lasts forever.

That's the glorious magnitude of God's kingdom. It's huger than huge. It's larger than life. It's beyond our ability to conceive or comprehend in any way—and yet we are part of it. We are included within it.

What an incredible opportunity!

TWO KEY WORDS

“Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33

We need to focus on two words from those verses that can change everything when it comes to leveraging our lives for God's kingdom. The first word is *seek*.

There is a strong sense among Christians today that following God is a passive experience. A passive lifestyle. We listen to sermons and read Scripture and kneel to pray, and through it all we hope God does something to grab our attention. We invest ourselves in the same habits and hang-ups that have caused us problems for years, waiting for God's spirit to change us for the better.

But following Jesus means seeking after His kingdom. It's an active pursuit – a chase. To truly leverage our lives, we must seek moment-by-moment to live in submission to His will and His plan every day. As God told His people in Jeremiah 29:13:

You will seek me and you will find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

The second word is *first*. We must be active in seeking God's kingdom, and we need to seek it first. Remember that everything in our lives should center in and revolve around the King and His kingdom. Nothing else in our lives should have a higher place of priority and authority than God – than the kingdom He has built and is building. Not our desires and plans. Not our habitual sins. Not our careers. Not even positive things like our families and our dreams. All of that must be second if we are to “seek first the kingdom of God.”

SO MUCH TO GAIN

When it comes to seeking God's Kingdom, there's a question we have not yet covered: why? Meaning, why should we seek God's Kingdom? Why should we invest in God's work locally and globally?

The short answer is because Jesus commanded us to do so. Recall Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” And in many ways, that really is good enough. When God tells us to do something, we should do it. Remember how the early Jesus followers remained in Jerusalem when He told them to do so? We're called to obey Jesus's commands. But to go a little deeper, let's explore why. After all, God is all powerful. He is the creator and sustainer of all things. If He desires for His Kingdom to advance and to permeate this world, He can accomplish those goals very well without our help, right? He does not need our resources or best efforts to bring about His will.

So why? Why does Jesus ask us to seek first the kingdom above everything else in our lives?

We can see part of the answer by looking at Philippians 4:19-20:

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

There’s the key word: *glory*. We seek God’s kingdom, and we invest ourselves in God’s work to glorify Him. To honor Him. To properly align ourselves with Him.

Think of the Israelites in the Old Testament. Did God benefit in any way by receiving their sacrifices? Was He in desperate need of cattle or incense or grain? No! Those sacrifices were an opportunity for humanity to worship God and maintain fellowship with Him.

The same is true for us today. God does not need our jobs, skills, or passions to build His kingdom. When we seek first the kingdom, we offer nothing He does not already have—yet we gain so much. So much! We become co-laborers in His incredible plan of redemption. Of restoration. We gain the opportunity to praise Him and worship Him by *joining* His plan. By working with our Heavenly Father to accomplish His will not just for today but for eternity.

That is the incredible opportunity we can take hold of when we seek first His kingdom!

In addition to bringing God glory, it also brings us blessing. As we obey and seek Him first, He meets our needs – not our wants - but our needs. He is so worthy of our trust and obedience!