



COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus Dangerous Prayers: Your Kingdom Come November 8, 2020

Passages

- Primary passage: Matthew 6:9-13

Questions

- Opener:
 - When was the last time you had a moment of awe or wonder? What was that like?
 - How are you doing this week? What do you need right now? (Continue to refer to the Needs Inventory, see Additional Resources below)
- Share Experience:
 - How comfortable do you feel to pray "Thy Kingdom Come"? What makes this a dangerous prayer to you?
 - In what ways have you struggled to relate your faith to everyday life? In what ways has it been easy?
 - In your life, where have you seen the Kingdom of God most clearly expressed?
 - In what ways have you longed to see more clear expressions of the Kingdom of God in and around you?
 - What does living into the Kingdom of God look like in your sphere of work?
- Dig Into:
 - What is the Kingdom of God?
 - In your own words, what is the relationship between sharing the gospel (good news about Jesus) and doing justice and mercy?
 - What would a community look like that lives out Jesus' prayer that God's Kingdom come and His will be done on Earth as in Heaven?

Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song "Father Let Your Kingdom Come" by the Porter's Gate Project (See Additional Resources Below). What thoughts and emotions does it stir in you? What light does it shed on Jesus' words in the Lord's prayer? What Kingdom vision does it stir in you for your own calling in life?

Practices

- This week in your devotion time, practice asking God: "What does it look like for your Kingdom to Come in my life and sphere of influence?" Then listen for a response from God. Notice what thoughts, images, scripture passages, daydreams etc. come to mind as you sit listening for God. As you think you get an answer, bring it back to the group and discern together if this might be God speaking to you.
- Practice learning more about the Kingdom of God from a first rate theologian in N.T. Wright. (See Additional Resources below) How does his view line up with how you understand scripture? How does it challenge you? Bring your questions next week and talk as a group about them.

Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Needs Inventory - <https://www.cnvc.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/CNVC-needs-inventory.pdf>
- Song: "[Father Let Your Kingdom Come](#)" by The Porter's Gate Project
- "[The New Testament Doesn't Say What Most People Think It Does About Heaven](#)" by N.T. Wright

How to use this Walking in the Way Guide

1. It's important to know that there's more material here than any one group can cover in one night. Please **DO NOT** try to get through every scripture passage, question, and creative idea. That is a recipe for discouragement and burnout!
2. Do use this guide as a way to spark some discussion following from last Sunday's message. As the Community Group Leader, you know your group the best. Select which elements from this guide would be most helpful and relevant to your group!
3. **Scripture:** We will always give two or more passages of scripture that are relevant to the topic from Sunday's sermon. Ideally select one passage and stay there. Use only two at the most. You may want to have someone read the passage out loud and then work through the questions from the *5 Questions to Ask When Reading Your Bible* guide below. This is a great resource to print out and give to every member of your Community Group to help guide their own Bible reading at home!
4. **Questions:** There are more questions here than you'll likely be able to get through in one night. Select some questions you think might resonate with your group and throw questions to the group for discussion until one really takes off! You know a good discussion is happening when group members are interacting with and responding to what each other is saying and not just what is coming from you as the group leader!
5. **Creative Ideas:** If you feel it will help your group, select one of these creative ideas to help your group process and interact with the theme for this week. Feel free to add in your own creative ideas as well!!
6. **Practices:** This is how we grow in grace! Practices are what move a good discussion from merely interesting to life transforming. These sample practices are given to help you and the group live into the reality that was talked about on Sunday and that you interacted with in Scripture this week. **Choose one or (at most) two practices that you as a group will commit to doing this next week to live into God's truth.** As you come back next week, debrief how those practices went the previous week!
7. **Sample Schedule:** Here's a sample timeline for how to budget your time for a Community Group meeting. Keep in mind, this is a suggestion, not a rule to follow. **Do what works best for your community!**
 - **Arrival:** Catching up and Snacks - 15 min
 - **Intro:** See how everyone's doing. Maybe throw out an icebreaker question. As the group gets more comfortable, you can use this time to debrief the previous week's practice. - 10 min
 - **Scripture:** Dig into one passage from scripture using the 5 Questions (See Below) - 25 min
 - **Discussion** - 20 min
 - **Closing:** Decide on which practice(s) you'll commit to this week. Spend time praying for each other and those you sense God is sending you to - 10 min

5 Questions To Ask When Reading Your Bible - Worksheet

Whether you're a seminary professor or you've just recently picked up a Bible for the first time, these five questions can help you engage with Scripture. Try using it by yourself or with a group of people to read, understand and live out the Bible.

Question 1: What is going on in the passage?

- What's happening here?
- Who are the main characters?
- Very simply, *what is*?

Question 2: What do I like about the passage?

- What parts of this passage/story encourage me?
- What inspires, pleases or excites me based on what I've read?
- Why?

Question 3: What disturbs or startles me about the passage?

- What is it about this passage that reveals truth that may be hard to accept?
- What disturbs me or jolts, confronts or even offends me in my understanding of God, His Son, the world or my life?
- Why don't I like that?

Question 4: What does this say about the nature of God and/or the character of Jesus?

- What does this passage say about who God actually is?
- What does this say about the essence of his nature?
- What can I see about the character of Jesus (his patience, holiness, compassion, righteousness, etc)?

Question 5: What will I do with what I just learned in the next seven days?

- How will we respond to what we've just read?
- What will I do with what I just learned?
- How do I make sure that this wasn't just intellectual ascent? How do I put this into practice?