



# Kingdom Come

**The Gospel According to Matthew**

**Study Guide – 2025**

 **CONCORDUNITED**

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**Introduction**

In Matthew's Gospel, the first messages we hear from Jesus and John the Baptist are identical, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." Matthew's Gospel mentions the Kingdom of Heaven over 30 times, making it the most prominent topic in Jesus' ministry. Today, we are used to democracies where the people ultimately have the power. Jesus' kingdom is very different. Jesus did not come to help facilitate a conversation about what type of society we want to develop. He came to show us the way to the kingdom God has designed for us since before the foundation of the world and to give us the chance to enter it.

In the other Gospels, Jesus most often speaks of the Kingdom of God while occasionally mentioning, the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven almost exclusively, while only occasionally mentioning the Kingdom of God. Most likely, Jesus used the terms interchangeably during his life, yet Matthew's choice to use the Kingdom of Heaven language may tell us something important about what Matthew was trying to convey through his Gospel.

Matthew was a Jew who before becoming a disciple served as a tax collector for the Roman Empire. While despised by the Jews for working for the Romans, Matthew would have known Jewish culture inside and out as his profession put him in touch with a large segment of the Jewish public and involved him directly in religious arguments between the Jews and their Roman rulers.

Interestingly, Matthew is the most Jewish of all the Gospels with more of a focus on the Jewish beliefs, practices, and prophecies than any of the other three Gospels. During Jesus' time, many people within Judaism and Roman culture spoke of the Kingdom of God as an earthly kingdom based on God's will and design and overseen by rulers appointed by God. By using the phrase Kingdom of Heaven, Matthew may be intentionally differentiating Jesus' Kingdom from the Roman Empire and from the Jewish desire to re-establish their sovereignty within Judah.

In speaking of the Kingdom of Heaven, Matthew makes clear that Jesus' authority does not come from the creation of the sovereign earthly kingdom. Instead, his

authority comes from his sovereignty over the heavenly kingdom, which is infinitely more powerful than any earthly kingdom, and to which all earthly kingdoms will one day have to answer.

Jesus' teachings are made especially unique by the fact that he not only believed in the heavenly kingdom, he also taught his followers how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and seemed to insinuate that they could enter the eternal heavenly kingdom before death as well as after death.

In this study we will explore: What is the Kingdom of Heaven like? Why is this Kingdom so important to Jesus? Who is the King? Who gets to enter the Kingdom? Do you have to die before you can go to the Kingdom? What happens to those outside the Kingdom? What difference does the Kingdom make in our daily lives?

### **Bible Reading Plan**

Our Bible Reading Plan for this series guides us through Bible readings that align with the weekly topics. We encourage each person to read these passages along with the study guides. A copy of the Bible Reading Plan is available through this link: [Bible Reading Plan Link](#).

We pray that God works in and through this series to help you discover how Jesus calls us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven which has come near to us.

\*\*If using this study guide as an individual, answer the questions noted for groups individually.

## **Week 1 – Turn Around Before It’s Too Late**

Week of March 9

Matthew 4:12-17

### **Let’s Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Heavenly Father, we come before You with more questions than answers. We want to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus teaches us about. It sounds so different from what we know of kingdoms. We want to enter it, yet feel ourselves constantly pulled back towards a life lived for earthly pleasures.

Turn our eyes towards Jesus. Fix our hearts on your Kingdom both for now and for eternity. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- What do you think about when you think about the Kingdom of Heaven? Have you ever thought of being able to enter it now?

### **Let’s Review**

Discuss in group the following:

- From what you know of Jesus’ teachings, what do you think are the distinguishing characteristics of the Kingdom of Heaven?
- How would your life be different if you lived within the Kingdom of Heaven even before death?

### **Let’s Gain Information**

- Watch Session 1 Video

### Key Concepts for Session 1

In Matthew 4:12-17, Jesus echoes John the Baptist by indicating that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near and that repentance is the only appropriate response to the nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven. Repentance isn’t a word that is used often in our culture anymore, but most people in Jesus’ day would have been quite familiar with it.

From the way Jesus uses the term repentance, we can gather that:

- Repentance is the first step into the new life God offers.
- It requires turning away from worldly goals and embracing heavenly ones.
- Repentance means rejecting anti-God behaviors, attitudes, and elements that separate us from Him.
- It involves changing the direction of one's life, not just apologizing for wrongdoing.
- Repentance is necessary for participation in God's kingdom.
- It's a response to the nearness of God's kingdom, which Jesus embodies.
- Repentance includes submitting to and following Jesus as the Son of God.
- It's an ongoing process, as Jesus continues to call His followers back even after they fail.
- Repentance is often described as turning around and reorienting the direction of your life.

Questions:

- Repentance seems like a huge leap of faith. Yet, Jesus identifies it as the first step into new life. Why do you think our spiritual journeys with Jesus have to begin with repentance?
- What's the difference between repenting (turning around) and simply trying to be a better person who makes fewer mistakes?

### **Let's Read**

Read aloud Matthew 4:12-17

Questions to consider:

- Jesus begins his public ministry after the arrest of John the Baptist. What does this tell us about the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus?
- Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah before telling the people to repent. How does Jesus' identification with Isaiah inform how we understand his message?
- Jesus compares repentance with the morning dawn when the light first appears. How does this analogy help us understand what it means to repent?

### **Let's Apply**

- Every kingdom has a king (or queen). How are you tempted to make yourself king/queen of your own life? How does life feel different when you allow Jesus to be king?
- What would it look like for you to reorient yourself towards God rather than just trying to be a better person?
- Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Do you experience God as being near or distant? Can you remember a time when God felt distant? How about a time when God felt near? What did you learn from those experiences?

Conclude with prayer.

## **Week 2 – The Secret To Entering the Kingdom**

Week of March 16

Matthew 6:25-34

### **Let's Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Gracious Lord, you teach us to seek first your Kingdom and trust that everything else will take care of itself. This is so hard for us to do. We want to acquire all the material comforts and strategic advantages of the world, and then also develop of spiritual life so we can feel like a good people and be assured of going to heaven when we die.

Yet, you teach that we can only find peace for our troubled spirits and rest for our weary souls by being willing to lose everything else to gain you. It is so difficult for us to trust you this much. Lord, in your mercy, give us the wisdom and courage we need to seek you above all else. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- Most people keep faith on the periphery of their lives rather than making faith the center of their existence. Why is it so tempting to keep God at arm's length?

### **Let's Review**

Discuss in group the following:

- What do you remember about repentance?
- Why must we repent to learn to trust God?

### **Let's Gain Information**

- Watch Session 2 Video

## Key Concepts for Session 2

- **Focus on God First:** When we prioritize God's kingdom, we stop stressing about everyday worries and start thinking about what matters.
- **God Takes Care of Us:** Just like He feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, we can trust that God will take care of our needs too.
- **You Are Important to God:** Remember that you matter more to God than anything in nature, which helps us feel secure in His care.
- **Align with God's Will:** When we seek to live according to God's values, it helps us let go of worries about material things.
- **Worry Doesn't Help:** Realizing that worrying won't change anything encourages us to focus on what we can control instead.
- **Trust God's Plan:** Knowing that God is in charge of our lives helps ease our fears about what might happen in the future.
- **Stay Present:** Concentrating on today rather than stressing about tomorrow keeps our minds clear and less anxious.
- **God Provides When We Seek Him:** When we make seeking God our main goal, He takes care of our everyday needs as a bonus.
- **Be Different from Others:** Instead of worrying like those who don't know God, we can find peace by trusting Him for our needs.
- **God Knows What We Need:** Believing that God already knows our needs helps us relax and stop stressing about how to meet them ourselves.

## Questions:

- What happens when we let worry and anxiety get the best of us?
- What's the difference between how Jesus teaches us to respond to worry and other approaches to dealing with worry which are commonly taught in our culture?

## **Let's Read**

Read aloud Matthew 6:25-34

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- How does Jesus' reference to birds and plants put our worries in perspective?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says to "seek first the Kingdom of God"?



### **Let's Apply**

- What raises your anxiety level the most?
- What are some techniques you've developed for dealing with anxiety?
- Do these techniques involve placing your trust in Jesus and seeking His will? Or do these techniques focus primarily on helping you calm down enough to act strategically and on asking God to do your will?
- What would it look like for you to "seek first the Kingdom" when you are anxious?

Conclude with prayer.

## **Week 3 – The Kingdom’s Cause**

Week of March 23

Matthew 10:5-15

### **Let’s Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the invitation to participate in Your divine mission. As Jesus commissioned His disciples, we too are called to be Your hands and feet in this world.

Lord, grant us the courage and compassion to heal the broken, just as You empowered the apostles to cure the sick, raise the dead, and cleanse the lepers. May we be instruments of Your love, bringing hope and restoration to those in need. We humbly ask for Your guidance as we invite others into Your Kingdom. Let our words and actions reflect Your grace, drawing people to the greatest invitation of all - the invitation to eternal life with You.

Father, remind us that we have freely received Your love and mercy. Help us to freely give, sharing the good news of Your Kingdom without expecting anything in return. As we go forth, may we rely on Your providence, trusting that You will provide for our needs as we serve You. Give us discernment to recognize those who are receptive to Your message, and the strength to shake off rejection when we encounter it.

Lord Jesus, we are grateful for the privilege of being part of Your mission. May Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In Your holy and precious name, we pray. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- Share about a time when you felt called to minister to a specific person/group of people.
- Share about a time when God did something through you that you never could have done on your own.

## **Let's Review**

Discuss in group the following:

- Jesus instructs his followers to heal diseases and cast out demons. How would it impact your faith if you sought to minister in these ways?
- Jesus also instructs his followers to “proclaim the good news that the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.” How can we proclaim this message today?

## **Let's Gain Information**

- Watch Session 3 Video

### Key Concepts for Session 3

Consider the challenges faced by the twelve disciples Jesus sent out.

- Daunting mission: Tasked with proclaiming the arrival of God's kingdom
- Supernatural expectations: Required to perform miracles like healing the sick and raising the dead
- Financial uncertainty: Forbidden from taking money or provisions for their journey
- Dependence on strangers: Instructed to rely on the hospitality of "worthy" individuals in each town
- Potential rejection: Faced the possibility of towns and homes refusing their message
- Harsh consequences for others: Aware that rejecting towns would face severe judgment
- Personal discomfort: Told to "shake the dust off their feet" when leaving unwelcoming places
- Spiritual warfare: Expected to cast out demons as part of their ministry
- Uncertain Compensation: Challenged to provide their services without charge while depending on others' generosity
- Discernment required: Needed to identify "worthy" hosts in unfamiliar locations
- Pressure of representation: Carried the weight of being Christ's ambassadors in various communities

### Questions:

- Jesus gives the twelve disciples a mission much greater than they could ever accomplish on their own. How would the overwhelming nature of their mission shape how they went about accomplishing it?

### Let's Read

Read aloud Matthew 10:5-15

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- Jesus sends out the twelve very to minister in his name after they have only known him a short while. What does this teach about how Jesus calls us to serve?
- What part of the mission of the Twelve would you find most exciting? What part would you find most terrifying?

### Let's Apply

- Do you think Jesus calls some of his followers to minister in His name or does Jesus call all his followers to minister in His name?
- Do you think Jesus still calls us to the same type of ministry as the original twelve disciples?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus if He calls you to serve in a way that is outside your comfort zone?
- How should the overwhelming nature of Jesus' call affect how we go about serving Christ and living out the calling He has given us?
- It's often said, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." How has this been true in your life?

Conclude with prayer.

**Week 4 – The Kingdom’s Cost**  
Week of March 30  
Matthew 13:44-50

**Let’s Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Most Holy God, Lord of Heaven and Earth, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the priceless treasure of Your kingdom. Like the man who discovered a hidden treasure in a field, may we recognize the immeasurable value of Your love and grace.

Grant us the wisdom to see that Your kingdom is worth more than all our earthly possessions. Give us the courage to joyfully surrender everything in pursuit of You.

Just as the merchant sold all he had for that one perfect pearl, help us to prioritize our relationship with You above all else. May we find our greatest joy and fulfillment in Your presence. Father, we ask for the strength to let go of anything that hinders our devotion to You. Teach us to treasure the qualities of Your kingdom - compassion, justice, love, and mercy - above worldly riches.

Thank You for the gift of salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May our lives reflect the joy of this treasure, and may we share it generously with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- Share about a time when you had to give something up to gain something greater.
- Share about a time you had to make a major life decision. What guided your decision-making process? Did you make the decision more from your head or your gut? Do you find big decisions or small decisions more difficult?

## Let's Review

Discuss in group the following:

- Jesus' first parable notes that the person who sells all they have to buy the field with the treasure in it does so out of joy. How do you experience joy when you put Jesus first?
- The idea of being willing to give up all you have to enter the kingdom insinuates that faith is not supposed to be one priority among many others. Faith is supposed to be the sole guiding principle of our lives which sets all other priorities. How do we experience faith differently when we make it the guiding principle of our lives rather than one of many priorities?

## Let's Gain Information

- Watch Session 4 Video

## Key Concepts for Session 4

- The kingdom of heaven is compared to "treasure hidden in a field" (v. 44), emphasizing its immense, often unseen value.
- The text specifically mentions the man's "joy" (v. 44) when selling everything, underscoring that sacrificing for the kingdom brings delight, not burden.
- The parable of the pearl (vv. 45-46) reinforces the theme: when the merchant found "one pearl of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."
- Both parables suggest that gaining the kingdom is worth losing all earthly possessions, as both the man and the merchant sell "all" they have (vv. 44, 46).
- The repetition of similar stories (hidden treasure and pearl) emphasizes Jesus' teaching that God's kingdom surpasses all worldly wealth in value.
- Neither the man nor the merchant hesitate or regret their decisions, implying that the sacrifice for the kingdom is a joyful trade-off for something far greater.
- The subsequent parable of the net (vv. 47-50) warns of judgment, suggesting that choosing the kingdom has eternal consequences.
- The "net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind" (v. 47) implies that the call of the kingdom extends to all people.
- The sorting of the fish, where the angels "separate the evil from the righteous" (v. 49), underscores the importance of valuing and pursuing the kingdom in this life.

### Questions:

- Why do you think neither the man who busy the field nor the merchant hesitate? Why do we sometimes hesitate to follow Christ?
- The merchant was actively searching for fine pearls. How can we actively seek the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives?
- How do these parables challenge the idea that Jesus leads us to a boring or restricted life?

### Let's Read

Read aloud Matthew 13:44-50

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- Both the man and the merchant sold all they had. What might giving up all you have for the sake of the kingdom look like in your life?
- How does the parable of the net affect our understanding of the urgency of following Christ?

### Let's Apply

- How do these parables challenge society's emphasis on accumulating possessions?
- These parables indicate that seeking the Kingdom of Heaven leads to decisive action. What decisive action might God be calling you to take?
- How do these parables, especially the parable of the net, cause you to think about your responsibility to share the good news of the Kingdom with others?

Conclude with prayer.

## **Week 5 – The Kingdom’s Citizenship Test**

Week of April 6

Matthew 18:1-5 & Matthew 19:13-15

### **Let’s Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Heavenly Father, we come to You with humble hearts, seeking Your wisdom and grace. Just as Jesus welcomed the little children, we ask that You help us approach You with childlike faith and trust.

Lord, teach us to set aside our pride and ambition and instead embrace the humility of a child. May we remember that true greatness in Your kingdom comes not from worldly status, but from a pure and simple heart that seeks You above all else.

We pray for the grace to receive others as Jesus received the children, with open arms and loving-kindness. Help us to see the value in every soul, regardless of age or status, knowing that when we welcome them in Your name, we welcome You.

Father, give us the courage to change and become like little children in our faith. Remove any obstacles that hinder us from fully trusting in You and Your love.

May we approach You with wonder, curiosity, and complete dependence, knowing that You care for us as a loving parent. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- How was your faith shaped when you were a child?
- Share how you have learned about God from children.

### **Let’s Review**

Discuss in group the following:

- The humility of childlike faith functions as a citizenship test for the Kingdom of Heaven. What is the role of humility in your faith? Is it possible to have a faith that contains both certainty and humility?
- What are the other gods that compete with the One True God for our obedience? How are we sometimes in danger of making ourselves god?



## Let's Gain Information

- Watch Session 5 Video

### Key Concepts for Session 5

- The disciples asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1), revealing their misunderstanding of true greatness in God's kingdom.
- Jesus declared that unless one changes and becomes like children, they will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).
- Humility, as exemplified by a child, is the key characteristic of those considered great in God's kingdom (Matthew 18:4).
- Jesus emphasized that welcoming a child in His name is equivalent to welcoming Him (Matthew 18:5).
- In Matthew 19:13-15, people brought little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. These actions indicate that Jesus was known for his care for children.
- The disciples rebuked those bringing children, showing they still hadn't grasped Jesus' earlier teaching about childlike faith.
- Jesus affirmed that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like these children (Matthew 19:14).
- The passages emphasize that childlike qualities such as humility, trust, and dependence on God are essential for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.

### Questions:

- Why do you think neither the man who sows the seed nor the merchant hesitate? Why do we sometimes hesitate to follow Christ?
- The merchant was actively searching for fine pearls. How can we actively seek the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives?
- How do these parables challenge the idea that Jesus leads us to a boring or restricted life?

## **Let's Read**

Read aloud Matthew 13:44-50

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- In what ways do you struggle with the desire to be "the greatest" in your personal or professional life? How can you apply Jesus' teaching to these situations?
- What aspects of your character or behavior might be hindering you from fully embracing the humility Jesus describes?

## **Let's Apply**

- How can you encourage and support the faith of children in your family, church, or community?
- Are there ways you might be unintentionally "hindering" others from coming to Jesus? How can you remove these obstacles?
- In what ways can you practice humility in your relationships with others, especially those you might consider beneath you in status or ability?
- How can you create an environment in your home, workplace, or church that values and nurtures childlike faith and humility?

Conclude with prayer.

## **Week 6 – The King’s Coronation (Palm/Passion Sunday)**

Week of April 13

Matthew 21:1-27

### **Let’s Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and awe. As You entered Jerusalem with humility and purpose, riding on a donkey, we ask that You enter our lives anew. May we, like the crowds that day, welcome You with joy and reverence, laying down our praises and devotion before You.

Grant us the faith to move mountains, not through our strength, but through Your power working in us. Help us to approach You in prayer with unwavering belief, trusting that You hear and answer according to Your perfect will.

Cleanse our hearts, O God, as You cleansed the temple. Remove from us anything that hinders our worship and service to You. May our lives bear fruit that glorifies Your name, unlike the fruitless fig tree.

Give us wisdom to recognize Your authority in our lives, and the courage to follow You even when faced with opposition. Let our actions and words proclaim, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" We pray this in Your holy name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- Did you grow up in a church that celebrated Palm Sunday? What do you remember about it? What’s your favorite thing about Palm Sunday?
- What comes to mind when you think about a king?
- How does Jesus challenge our preconceived notions of what it means to be king?

## Let's Review

Discuss in group the following:

- In what ways are you preparing your heart to welcome Jesus as King in your daily life?
- How can you use your abilities or resources to honor Jesus as King, just as the crowd used palm branches and cloaks?

## Let's Gain Information

- Watch Session 6 Video

### Key Concepts for Session 6

- Jesus orchestrates His entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 and presenting Himself as a humble king.
- The crowds welcome Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna to the Son of David," acknowledging Him as the Messianic king.
- People spread their cloaks and branches on the road, a gesture traditionally reserved for royalty.
- Jesus cleanses the temple, asserting His authority over the religious establishment and reclaiming God's house for its intended purpose.
- He heals the blind and lame in the temple, showcasing His divine power and compassion as a benevolent king.
- Children continue to praise Jesus in the temple, fulfilling another prophecy and reinforcing His royal status.
- Jesus curses the fig tree, symbolically judging the fruitlessness of the temple leadership and demonstrating His authority over nature.
- He teaches about faith and prayer, revealing His role as a spiritual king who empowers His followers.
- When questioned about His authority, Jesus responds with wisdom that confounds the religious leaders, further establishing His royal prerogative.

### Questions:

- Why do you think neither the man who sows the seed nor the merchant hesitate? Why do we sometimes hesitate to follow Christ?
- The merchant was actively searching for fine pearls. How can we actively seek the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives?
- How do these parables challenge the idea that Jesus leads us to a boring or restricted life?

## **Let's Read**

Read aloud Matthew 21:1-27

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- Are there areas in your life that need "cleansing," like how Jesus cleansed the temple? What steps can you take to address these?
- Are you bearing fruit in your spiritual life? If not, what changes do you need to make to become more fruitful?

## **Let's Apply**

- How can you exercise faith that "moves mountains" in your current circumstances?
- In what ways can you make your home, workplace, or community a "house of prayer"?
- How do you respond when your beliefs or actions are challenged by others? Can you respond with the wisdom and grace that Jesus demonstrated?
- Are there areas in your life where you're resisting Jesus' authority? How can you surrender these to Him?

Conclude with prayer.

## **Week 7 – The Return of the King**

Week of April 20

Matthew 28:1-29

### **Let's Get Started**

Begin this time with prayer, using the following prayer, if desired:

Risen Lord, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and hope. Just as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary approached the tomb, we seek Your presence and truth. We marvel at Your power displayed through the earthquake and the angel who rolled back the stone. May we encounter Your messengers of hope, reminding us that You have overcome death.

Thank You for the angel's words: "Do not be afraid." In our moments of fear, help us remember that You have conquered all that threatens us. Fill our hearts with joy as we embrace the truth of Your resurrection. We are grateful for Your invitation to be part of Your family. May we share the good news with courage and live as new creations, transformed by Your love.

In the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Discuss in group the following:

- What are your favorite Easter traditions?
- How has the meaning of Easter changed for you over the years?

### **Let's Review**

Discuss in group the following:

- How did Easter change the disciples?
- How does Easter change the way we see life?

## Let's Gain Information

- Watch Session 7 Video

### Key Concepts for Session 7

Matthew presents Jesus' resurrection as not merely a miraculous event, but a powerful affirmation of His ongoing and eternal kingship over all creation. Consider these elements of the story which highlight the connection between Jesus' Resurrection and His Kingship.

- Divine power: The resurrection demonstrates Jesus' divine power over death, a characteristic of God's sovereignty.
- Fulfillment of prophecy: Jesus' rising from the dead fulfills Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, confirming His role as the promised king.
- Vindication of claims: The resurrection vindicates Jesus' claims to kingship, for which He was crucified, showing God's approval of His royal status.
- Reversal of earthly judgment: By raising Jesus, God overturns the verdict of earthly authorities, affirming Jesus' true identity as king.
- Angelic proclamation: The angel's announcement of the resurrection echoes royal proclamations, emphasizing Jesus' regal status.
- Authority over creation: The earthquake accompanying the resurrection showcases Jesus' authority over nature, a kingly attribute.
- Defeat of enemies: The resurrection represents Jesus' triumph over His enemies, including death itself, a hallmark of a victorious king.
- Commissioning disciples: The resurrected Jesus commissions His disciples, exercising His royal authority to send them as His representatives.
- Promise of eternal reign: The resurrection assures believers of Christ's eternal reign and their future resurrection, establishing His everlasting kingdom.
- Universal implications: The resurrection proves Jesus' kingship not just over Israel, but overall creation, as the ultimate judge and ruler.

### Questions:

- How does the Resurrection shape our views of death and eternal life?
- How does the Resurrection shape our views of the purpose of this life?

## **Let's Read**

Read aloud Matthew 28:1-20

- What caught your attention as you heard the scripture read?
- How can you cultivate a sense of urgency in sharing the gospel, inspired by the angel's message to the women?
- In what ways can you prepare yourself to encounter Jesus unexpectedly in your daily life?

## **Let's Apply**

- How does the fact that some doubted (verse 17) encourage you in your moments of uncertainty?
- What does it mean for you personally to be a witness of the resurrected Christ in your daily interactions?
- How can you remind yourself of Jesus' constant presence when facing difficult situations?
- How can you collaborate with other believers to fulfill the Great Commission more effectively?

Conclude with prayer.