

Crossway Life Group, Week of February 10

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9 and others. Sermon by Allan Greig "The Kingdom of God"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

- Allan Greig shared that he loves a good story. He described how the movie *Braveheart*—the story about a small group of freedom fighters who liberated Scotland from England—ignited his passion for living for 'something epic', something bigger than himself, beyond just a set of Bible-based rules or ethical guidelines. He found meaning and purpose in life in the Kingdom of God, living with and for the King.
 - Can you think of a time when you were seeking for meaning and purpose in your life?
 - What did you try out, and to whom did you look for meaning?
- "Kingdom" is mentioned over 100 times in the gospels, and over 50 times in the gospel of Matthew alone. **Read Matthew 6:9-10, Matthew 6:33, Mark 1:15, Luke 17:21.**
 - How do these (and other?) passages help us know Jesus' understanding of the kingdom of God?
 - How would you describe the 'Kingdom of God'?
 - What does it mean to seek, desire, pray for his kingdom to come?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:9.**
 - Peter writes to Christians who are scattered about and suffering for their faith. What does he remind them about? Why is it important for Christians to remember their identity?
- Do you have any other questions about these passages or about the sermon?

The Big Idea

**Living in the Kingdom of God
begins with a relationship with the King
reflecting the King in our everyday lives, and
reigning with the King, now and forever**

Application & Reflection Questions

1. Relationship with the King:
 - How would you describe to someone what it takes to enter the kingdom of God?
 - Has this been your own experience?
2. Reflect the King:
 - What are the characteristics of the citizens of the kingdom of God? Make a list of behaviors and attitudes that describe a faithful citizen in God's kingdom.
 - Take a moment to encourage others in your group by describing how you see these attributes alive in them. How is God alive in them and inspiring you?
 - What distracts you from reflecting the King? How can your group help you to reflect the King?
3. Reign with the King:
 - **Read Romans 8:17.** What does it mean to be a 'co-heirs with Christ'? In what way does the future promise of reigning with Christ later inspire faithful living in the kingdom now?

- Christians can reign with Christ now, advancing his kingdom on this earth, by obeying his commands, standing for kingdom values, and using God’s gifts. What does this look like in your life at the moment?
4. Living as faithful stewards in God’s kingdom. Crossway’s financial team shared stewardship principles to guide our thinking, praying, giving, and prepare us for the final vote on our 2019 budget Sun, Feb 17.
- Priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 2:9-10). Everyone should earnestly seek to use the gift(s) God has given for the common good and for ministry
 - Every believer is called to be free from the love of money (1 Tim 6:10); be generous (2 Cor 9:11); act justly with money (Ezekiel 34:17-19); answer to God for their ministry work (1 Cor 3:10-15)
 - *How do these financial stewardship principles apply to kingdom living? What does it look like to live out these principles as an individual? ...as a family? ...as a church body?*

Growing in Cultural Understandings

Some cultures emphasize the importance of individuals, where other cultures emphasize the importance of communities. **Collectivist /community-oriented** cultures tend to emphasize family values and work group goals above **individual** needs or desires. Individualistic cultures tend to emphasize individual values, such as acting according to personal judgment and pursuing one’s own life passions and happiness.

- How might our collectivist or individualistic cultural values influence the ways Christians understand faithfully living in the kingdom of God? For example, how might 1 Peter 2:9-10 be understood in an individualist culture? ... in a collectivistic culture?
- Jesus predicted that following him –living for his kingdom-- would result in difficulties and suffering because his kingdom is not of this world. In what ways does “kingdom living” run counter to the culture in which you grew up or are living now?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves? One specific strategy may be to pray for another group of people. And perhaps you could reach out to people in that group and ask them how you might pray.

Matthew 6:9-10 – New International Version

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

1 Peter 2:9-10 - New International Version

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Romans 8:17 – New International Version

¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.