

Small Group Guide THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

December 4, 2011

Matthew 1:1-17

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to train your group into potential disciple-makers and lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word with His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. (The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time.) Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to review the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications for our lives. (As a training tool, leaders might want to have various members summarize the teachings in their own words each week sharing how they think the Scripture applied to the original hearers and how the principles apply to us today.)

Message Outline

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

Matthew 1:1-17

The Gospel of the Kingdom...

- The book of Matthew is a Gospel (an account of good news!).
 - It is not a congregational letter.
 - It is not a comprehensive biography.
 - It is not a chronological history.
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- The book of Matthew is one of four Gospels.
 - John: Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Luke: Jesus is the Son of Man.
 - In ascending order, Luke traces the physical lineage of Jesus to Adam.
 - Mark: Jesus is the Suffering Servant.
 - Matthew: Jesus is the Sovereign King.
 - In descending order, Matthew traces the physical lineage of Jesus from Abraham.

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Introduction of the King...

- He is the Savior.
- He is the Messiah.
- He is the Son of David.
 - A continual seed will endure to the end.
 - An honored Son will reign on the throne.
- He is the Son of Abraham.
 - God will form a covenant people.
 - God will give them a promised inheritance on earth.
 - God will use them to accomplish a global purpose.
 - He will send a King.
 - His Kingdom will one day expand to all people groups.

Overview of the Kingdom...

- Gospel: The message of the kingdom.
- Disciples: The citizens of the kingdom.
- Discipleship: The demands of the kingdom.
- Church: The outpost of the kingdom.
- Mission: The spread of the kingdom.
- Demons: The enemies of the kingdom.
- Hope: The coming of the kingdom.
 - The kingdom is a present reality...
 - The King is here!
 - The kingdom is a future realization...
 - The King is coming again!

Salvation through the King...

- God saves only by his sovereign grace.
 - Jesus came not because of Israel's righteousness, but in spite of Israel's
 - See the sinful responsibility of man.
 - See the supreme will of God.
 - Jesus came for (and through) the morally outcast.
 - Jesus came for (and through) the ethnically diverse.
- God saves ultimately for his global purpose.
 - Jesus fulfills God's promise to bless his chosen people.
 - Jesus accomplishes God's purpose to bless all peoples.

The Bottom Line...

- Like the leaders, will you completely reject Jesus?
- Like the crowds, will you casually observe Jesus?
- Like the disciples, will you unconditionally follow Jesus?

Message Summary

At the heart of Matthew's book is the gospel (good news) of the King—Jesus—and His kingdom. By looking at Matthew 1:1-17 and the genealogy included, Matthew informs us of many amazing truths about Jesus based on the lineage from which He came as recorded in Old Testament history. Matthew introduces Jesus as the promised King, revealing Him as the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of David, and the Son of Abraham. The message focused on God's promises to David in 2 Samuel 7—a continual seed that will endure forever and an honored Son to reign on the throne—and His promises to Abraham to form a covenant people with a promised land to accomplish a purpose (see Genesis 12, 15, 17). Next, Dr. Platt looked at an overview of the

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Kingdom, noting specific ways the Kingdom transforms every aspect of the world. The message concluded with truths about the King's provision of salvation—by God's grace and for God's global purposes. Everyone has a choice to make about how he or she will respond to Jesus, just as those who lived during His time on Earth—to reject Him, observe Him, or follow Him.

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help review the application of God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

- When you hear the word *king*, what do you think of?
- Why is it important to have a proper understanding of Jesus as King?
- When you consider God's words to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16, why are God's promises to David still so significant for us today? What do these promises tell us about the character of God?
- When you consider the covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 12, 15, and 17, can you articulate why that covenant is significant to our relationship with Jesus?
- How does valuing God's kingdom promises to Abraham and David fuel missions in the local church?
- Dr. Platt said that all of the Old Testament and all of history revolve around a King who would come—Jesus. How should this truth shape the way we view the world—both past and present? How does it change the way we read the Old Testament? How should it change our desires and values? How should it affect our priorities?
- What hinders us from living every day with a kingdom mindset? How do we, by God's grace, overcome those hindrances?
- Read Matthew 10:39. Consider the bullet points under the section entitled, "Overview of the Kingdom," and discuss how each point requires you to give yourself up (die to self) for Christ's sake.
- Why is it significant that Jesus' kingly lineage included moral outcasts and ethnically diverse people? Why is that good news for all of us?
- How should that truth affect the way believers value all people?
- What does God want you to do in response to these truths of Christ's kingship?
- In what practical ways did Christ make His kingship known during His life on earth? What are some ways you can make Christ's kingship clear to those around you? What are some ways your small group can do that together?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of today's study. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from this study?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from this study, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this study?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- What is going to be the most difficult aspect of this study to personally apply?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to apply these truths, for personal needs, for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel, and for our weekly prayer focus as a church..

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Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from our worship guide)

- ***Lives and Church:*** Pray that God would open our eyes to his Kingdom in the book of Matthew. Pray also that our urgency for proclaiming this King would multiply as we fix our eyes on Him together.
- ***Local:*** This week we are praying for King's Home, which has been home to hundreds of youth, women, and children seeking refuge, hope, and help from abuse, neglect, abandonment, homelessness, and other difficult circumstances. We are also praying for Sardis Baptist Church, Kurt Shawn, Pastor.
- ***Global:*** This week we are praying for Brook Hills partners engaging the people of Sumatra. We are also praying for our team serving in Southeast Asia.