

LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM GROUPS



Part 9: The Value of the Kingdom of God

Note: We have provided you with more questions than you will likely need. Please don't feel pressure to talk about every question. Use the ones that you feel will be most useful in generating discussion in your group.

Ask

What is one fun personal interest you have that occupies a significant amount of your time and/or money and how does that interest enrich your life? Examples could include a television show, sports team, artistic hobby, recreational activity, or almost anything else. *Leader's Note: The purpose of this question is simply to give group members a chance to share their interests. There isn't meant to be the implication that it's 'bad' to give time and/or money to these interests.*

Hear

Play

Watch the first video clip that is on www.bridgeway.church/litk.

Ask

- What stuck out to you from the clip?
- In the clip Pastor Lance said, "Need is a doorway." How have you experienced this in your own life? Do you find that you're more open when you're in a position of need or want?
- Pastor Lance talked in the message about the challenge of wealth. Nearly all of us face financial challenges, but we're still some of the wealthiest people in the world. How can our wealth and comfort mask our need for closeness with God and one another? How can we overcome this?

Read

- Read the Parable of the Rich Fool from Luke 12:15-21

Ask

- What stands out to you from this passage?

Read

- In talking about this passage, historian Kenneth Bailey says:

"This is a very sad scene. In the Middle East, village people make decisions about important topics after long discussions with their friends. Families, communities and villages are tightly knit together...But this man appears to have no friends. He lives in isolation from the human family around him...Throughout the world...the more wealth people acquire, the farther they generally withdraw from their neighbors....This is precisely what appears to have happened to this man. There is no one around, and he can talk only to himself. Jesus' listeners would have envisioned this type of picture as the parable unfolded." - Kenneth Bailey, Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

Ask

- What are some ways that wealth isolates us from each other in America? What are some practical ways we can overcome that isolation? *Leader's note: If appropriate, consider taking some time to discuss how you, as a Missional Community, can be less isolated from one another*

- So much of our society today is built to promote exactly the kind of selfishness and accumulation that we see from the Rich Fool in this parable, but, as the parable teaches, that's not something that leads to our wellbeing. How can we resist that sort of mindset and instead live into God's invitation to serve Him and build His Kingdom?
- In the message Pastor Lance said, "We think our carts are full, so we do not long for more." We are not only wealthy (by global standards), but we're also busy. Do you feel the tension of a 'full cart' in your life? What thoughts does that provoke for you?

Closing Questions for the Series

Ask

- How has your understanding of the Kingdom of God grown or been impacted through this series? In what ways do you feel more equipped to live into the 'now and not yet' of the Kingdom? *Leader's note: If it seems people have forgotten the 'now and not yet' concept from earlier in the series then take a few minutes to explain it.*
- What questions about the Kingdom of God remain for you? What questions do you have about how to live into the Kingdom?
- What is something that you learned in this series that you'll carry with you moving forward?

Close

- We'd like to invite you, as the MC leaders, to close the series by praying a blessing over your group. Think through how you've seen people grow during the series, and pray affirmation and blessing over them. Consider also praying that God would give you eyes to see the value of the Kingdom, that you all would see it as the "treasure hidden in a field" (Matt. 13:44), and that you would seek to live your lives for the sake of the Kingdom.

