



DIGGING DEEPER

WEEK 5: The Kingdom is Like...

This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message and apply it to your life. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer for you, and your LifeGroup.

PRAY [Have someone in your group open in prayer.]

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week at Fair Oaks Church we wrapped up our series *Kingdom Life* with a message on one of the primary teachings in the Bible on the Kingdom: the parables of Jesus. Jesus begins many of his parables with the phrase: “the Kingdom of heaven is like...” His parables, like most of Jesus’ teachings, paint a picture for us of what the Kingdom Life looks like.

KEY SCRIPTURE [Read aloud]

Jesus said, “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not understand.” [Matthew 13:9-13]

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from this weekend's message or key scripture?
2. Why do you think Jesus taught so frequently in parables? Why are parables effective means of understanding the Kingdom of God and what it means to live in it?
3. Read Jesus' parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-9.
What do you think Jesus means by this story? How might it relate to your life or understanding of how the Kingdom works?
4. Now read Jesus' explanation of the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18-23.
What kind of soil is most descriptive of your heart lately? Why is that?
5. Jesus teaches in Matthew 13:52: Jesus said to them, “Therefore every teacher who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”
What might this teaching look like in your life today?
What is one thing you will take away from this *Kingdom Life* series that has helped your understanding of the Kingdom of God and your life in it?

PRAY [Close your time in prayer. Allow time to pray for any needs in your group.]

Close your time by asking God to help you and your group to hear God clearly, see his Kingdom at work, and enable you to actively help him “bring up there, down here.”