

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** The Kingdom of God**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to clearly define the concept of the “Kingdom of God” and give examples of how this concept can be seen in Jesus’ life and ministry.**Question:** If you were the king of your own little kingdom, what is the first thing you would do?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Mark 1:14-15

1 Corinthians 4:20 - For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

What was the primary message of Jesus’ ministry?

- The Kingdom of God
- This is the headline of his whole ministry
- What was the one-sentence sermon preached by both Jesus and John the Baptist?
 - (Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.)
 - Also the message Jesus told his disciples to preach when he sent them out (Matthew 10:7)
- One writer has said, “You cannot know anything about Jesus, anything, if you miss the kingdom of God You are zero on Jesus if you don’t understand this term.” (Gordon Fee)
- Term “kingdom” appears in Gospels 126 times; most of them referring to kingdom of God/heaven

Defining the Kingdom of God

- Dictionary: “a politically organized community or major territorial unit ruled by a king or queen.”
- Biblical/Jesus:
 - (1) “the active, dynamic exercise of God’s rule, authority, dominion, and power in the world”
 - (2) “the in-breaking of God into history to realize his redemptive purposes”
 - (3) “God’s kingship”
- Kingdom of God = Kingdom of Heaven (“Heaven” a euphemism for “God”)

What does it mean to call Jesus “king”?

- He answers to nobody else - he is the final authority
- He is the Lord of our life - he is on the throne, we are not
- Nothing else can rightfully sit on the throne - anything other than Jesus is an idol
- Jesus will defend us, protect us, and care for us
- He is a benevolent dictator (he calls the shots, but not for his own ego, but for our good)

Political Nature of the Kingdom

“Kingdom” is an undeniably political term.

- A kingdom has a king
- It has territory
- It has citizens.
- It has laws.
- It has an army.

Jesus' ministry was undeniably political.

Examples:

1. Fulfillment of Messianic Expectation (OT prophecies)
 - Kingdom of Israel
 - Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:4-17)
 - Messianic Covenant (Isaiah 9:2-7)
 2. Wise Men/Herod - Wise men show up talking about a king of the Jews and Herod starts killing all the babies 2 and under to try to get rid of him. (threat to his political rule)
 3. Temptation - After his baptism, Jesus is tempted by Satan.
 - Satan offers to give him rule over all the kingdoms of this world if he will just bow down to him. But Jesus isn't after the kingdoms of this world. He came to usher in a new kingdom - the Kingdom of God.
 4. Conflict with the religious leaders of his day - conflict over who had authority/power
 5. Pilate - Jesus on trial for his political claims
 6. In fact, his first sermon is exactly that: "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."
 7. Conflict of Kingdoms (Jesus/Satan) - Jesus is attacking (confronting, waging war against) Satan, the prince of the power of the air (John 14:30; Ephesians 2:1-3)
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Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Kingdom of God
- Messiah
- Davidic Covenant
- What is the "one sentence sermon" of both Jesus and John that is related to the Kingdom of Heaven/God?
- What are some examples of the political nature of Jesus' ministry?