

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Kingdom of God (Where is it?)

Learning Goals: Students should be able to distinguish between the different locations of the Kingdom of God and the implications of each.

Question: Where is the Kingdom of God?

Prayer.

Review: What is the kingdom of God?

When is the kingdom of God going to arrive? (Already/Not Yet)

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

The Kingdom in Heaven (*Revelation 21*)

- What does the new kingdom look like?
 - no tears
 - no pain/illness/disease
 - no death (mourning)
 - no sun - God will be our light
 - no night
 - death abolished forever
 - no temple - God will dwell with us and us with God
 - picture of perfection - 144 cubits x 144 cubits x 144 cubits (12x12); 12 gates, 12 foundations, walls of jasper, city of pure gold, gates of precious stones (to take this too literally is to dramatically miss the point)
- This is the fulfillment of all things
- Will be inaugurated after the return of Christ

The Kingdom in your Heart (*Luke 17:20-21*)

- Spiritual component - Jesus as the Lord and king of our hearts
- We are transformed from the inside out
 - compare to Nicodemus and being “reborn”
 - compare to Paul and being a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - Transformed from inside-out (Romans 12:1-2)
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength
- The kingdom of God impacts actions, thoughts, relationships, families, institutions, and governments.
- Jesus is not just King of the kingdom, but king of my heart - personal decision to turn our lives and our will over to God - to trust Christ alone for our salvation, to let go of the reigns

The Kingdom on Earth (*Matthew 6:9-10; Matthew 25*)

- Jesus teaches us to pray for it to come “on earth as it is in heaven”
 - we are asking God to exert His authority in the world so that His purposes are achieved
- Matthew 3:2 - “the kingdom is at hand”
- Old Testament expectation - nothing to do with heaven after you die but an earthly kingdom where God is on the throne and blesses the world through his chosen people

- Colossians 1:9-14 - God has transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of his Son
 - The “kingdom of heaven/God” refers to the active, dynamic exercise of God’s rule, authority, dominion, and power in the world!
 - So when John the Baptist announced that the Kingdom of God was at hand, he meant that God’s rule was just about to break into the world through the Messiah.
 - When Jesus Christ Himself preached and proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, He meant that in and by Himself, God was exercising His power and authority in a redemptive way against all the evil in the world!
 - Matthew 25 - we are embodying the kingdom when we are ministering to those in need, those on the margins, those who are hurting and left out by society
 - We should always be looking for the face of Jesus in the face of those we are ministering to
 - There is a difference between charity and joining them in solidarity (incarnational ministry)
 - Holistic ministry - earning the right to share the gospel by ministering to needs
 - Goal not to “get ‘em saved’ and get ‘em out of this world,” but to bring the kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven”
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Lesson Summary /Review:

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

- Holistic Ministry
- What are the three “locations” of the Kingdom?