

**7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**

**Lesson Plan:** The Kingdom of God (How do we respond to it?)

**Learning Goals:** Students should begin asking themselves how to respond to Jesus' invitation to join him in the Kingdom of God.

**Question:** Give me five excuses people make when turning down an invitation. Why might someone do that? *(After the students have had a chance to brainstorm some ideas, transition by talking about Jesus' invitation to the Kingdom of God and how we might respond.)*

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Review what we've said about the Kingdom up till now

- What is it? (God's kingship)
- When is it? (already, not yet)
- Where is it? (heaven, heart, earth)

How Should We Respond to the Kingdom?

**1. Receive it like a little child.** *(Mark 10:13-16)*

- Trusting God
- Recapturing Wonder
- Living out of true joy (celebration)
- Without Shame
- Creative

**2. Do the will of the Father.** *(Matthew 7:21-23)*

- Not enough to know about Jesus, we need to know Jesus
- Not enough to know what God commands, we need to do what God commands (be doers of the word, not just hearers only)

**3. Follow by the way of the cross.** *(Matthew 16:24-28; Romans 12:1-2)*

- the cross is a shocking metaphor - shameful
- deny yourself; die to self
- paradox - to save your life, you must lose it; whoever loses life, will find it
- what will it profit to gain the world and lose your soul
- It will cost you EVERYTHING

**4. Set Your Priorities on the Kingdom.** *(Matthew 6:31-34)*

- Seek first the kingdom...

**5. Repent** *(Mark 1:14-15)*

- Turn away from yourself, sin, selfishness, etc.
- Metanoia - 180 degree turn

**6. Start Living Eternal Life Today.**

- When do we get eternal life? (expected answer: when we die; when we get to heaven, etc.)
- There is no reason to wait until you die to experience eternal life

- We have the opportunity to live in God's kingdom now, it is not limited to heaven; God's kingdom is any place where God is revered and honored as king (this can happen anywhere)

Go Tell Others (Great Commission)

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**Lesson Summary /Review:**

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

- Review the 6 possible responses
- Repent