

## THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST

**Week One - Realities of the Kingdom****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This short series focuses on the prayer Jesus taught his followers and how we can reorient our hearts and minds to more accurately live in the Kingdom of God he calls us to pray for. This week we'll examine some truths about the Kingdom that are countercultural to the world around us. We want our kids to grow in the ways of Jesus, not the ways of our society.*

- **Big Idea:** Life in God's Kingdom is radically different than the rest of the world.

**Starter****Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** Imagine Jesus came right now and welcomed us into his Kingdom. There would likely be a big feast and party. What else would it look like?

**Sing Together**

## Lesson - from Matthew 6

One time Jesus gave an example to his followers of what types of things they should pray for. He said, “*You should pray like this:*

*Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

The people listening might have had an idea of what it meant to ask for God’s kingdom to come. Many of them expected that Jesus was there to restore the kingdom of Israel and make them a great nation once again. That might be one of the reasons why many of them became angry enough to have Jesus killed when they later realized that wasn’t why he had come. Sadly, though they thought they were waiting for God’s Kingdom, they were actually longing for their own human kingdom.

It can be difficult to know fully what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom. Here are seven truths we can know about God’s Kingdom from the things Jesus and Scripture teach:

1. **The Kingdom has a King.**

*He is Jesus — not me.*

*He is King of the universe AND King over my life. (Matt 28:18)*

2. **The Kingdom has a way.**

*There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12)*

*Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)*

*We are called to follow King Jesus in the way of righteousness. (Psalm 1)*

3. **The Kingdom has a physical place.**

*God owns all things in heaven and earth and He is working to reunite them together as one. God cares about this physical world we live in.*

*(Gen 1:2, Psalm 104:30, Rev. 4:11)*

4. **The Kingdom has a united people.**

*We are called to love one another, bear one another’s burdens, serve one another, be patient with one another, submit to one another, encourage one another, be devoted to one another, etc.*

*(John 13:34, Gal. 6:2, Gal. 5:13, Eph. 4:2, 5:21, 1 Thess. 5:11, Romans 12:10)*

5. **The Kingdom has a diverse people.**

*One day people from every tribe, language, and nation will be present in God’s Kingdom. (Rev 7:9)*

6. **The Kingdom has a movement.**

*Jesus calls us to ‘Go and make disciples’ as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

*There is work to do, but Jesus will make sure his Kingdom grows.  
(Matt 28:18-20)*

### 7. **The Kingdom has the victory.**

*Eventually all other empires will fall and bow down to make way for God's true Kingdom. Jesus will be victorious. We want to be there with him.*

*(Daniel 7:14, Rev 22:20)*

A little bit after teaching that prayer, Jesus told his disciples to not be worried and overly concerned with the cares of the world, *“but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”*. (Matthew 6:33)

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ Who is the King? What does that mean for the world we live in? What does that mean for your personal life?
- ▶ What is the difference between Jesus' way and the way of the world around you?
- ▶ Why does it matter that God is at work to reunite heaven and earth?
- ▶ How can we experience unity with others who love Jesus, even when they are different from us in every other way?
- ▶ How can you take part in Jesus' mission to 'go and make disciples'? Whose power and authority do you need to do that?
- ▶ What are some other things you have gone after first, before seeking God's kingdom? (*comfort? control? approval? success?*)
- ▶ How can we be sure King Jesus will bring in God's Kingdom fully in the end?

### **Breakout Time**

#### **Pray:**

God, thank you for inviting me into your kingdom. Jesus, you are King. Spirit, help me to follow and trust you more fully. Come back quickly, King Jesus! Amen.

#### **Craft:**

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- They can also use the chart on the last page to think about the difference between how things are in the world and how they are in the Kingdom. Help kids think about how they can be an active part, in the Spirit's power, to give a glimpse of the Kingdom here and now.

### **BLESS Activity**

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm. In God's Kingdom, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Name one specific person you can bless this week by sharing something, feeding them, spending time with them, meeting a need, etc.

**YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,**



**ON EARTH  
AS IT IS**

**IN  
HEAVEN.**

**MATTHEW 6:10 ESV**

As it is right  
now

What it will be  
in God's Kingdom

my home

my neighborhood

the world

*Draw a picture or write about what each area of life looks like today and what it may look like in the renewed Kingdom of God. Are there ways Jesus wants to work through you to make it look a little more like that now?*