

THE COMING KINGDOM: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Week Seven — Good News is Here****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

Matthew's account of the Gospel of Jesus focuses on Jesus' arrival, bringing the Kingdom of God into our reality. It is this Kingdom that we want to equip all of Missio, our kids included, to live into. Pray that our kids would see Jesus not just as a baby in a manger nor just as a way out of trouble but as the King over all heaven and earth. A good king who loves us.

- **Big Idea:** The best news can change lives if we are willing to listen, believe, and obey.

Starter**Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Discussion Question

- What is the best news that you have ever heard?

Sing Together**Story — from Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25**

Do you know what the word "Gospel" means? Gospel is the translation of the Greek noun *euangelion* (occurring 76 times), "good news," and the verb *euangelizo*, (occurring 54

times), meaning “to bring or announce good news.” So, the gospel means good news. So, in Jesus’ time, when Caesar wanted to announce the birth of a son, they would pass out flyers or make announcements saying, “Euangelion! A son is born!”

After Jesus was tempted in the desert, he left and went to Galilee. He went to Galilee because he had heard that John the Baptist had been arrested. Then Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in a small town near the sea called Capernaum. Jesus didn’t go to Capernaum because he wanted to live at his beach house. He went there to fulfill a prophecy in the book of Isaiah that had been written about him. Jesus continued to show that all the old prophecies were pointing to him! He is the king they had been waiting for. He was the king that would make everything right.

In fact, from that point on, Jesus began to make his proclamation. Jesus began telling everyone, “Repent! The kingdom of heaven is arriving!” Jesus was bringing euangelion; he was bringing good news. God’s kingdom of heaven was coming through Jesus.

Jesus then went on through the whole of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues or temples and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, healing every disease and every illness among the people. Everyone started to hear about what Jesus was saying and doing. People were bringing him all of the people who were sick with all kinds of diseases and ailments, demon-possessed people, epileptics, and people who couldn’t move or walk. And Jesus healed every single one of them. Everyone wanted to hear Jesus and see what he was doing. So large crowds started to follow him from Galilee, Jerusalem, Judaea, and beyond the Jordan River.

[Dialogue Questions — you may use some or all]

- ▶ What good news did Jesus first announce after he went to live in Capernaum?
- ▶ How was this message the same or different from John’s message?
- ▶ Why do you think hearing “the kingdom of heaven is coming” would have been good news for people?
- ▶ Why was it important that Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies written about him in the Old Testament?
- ▶ Jesus didn’t just tell people that the kingdom of heaven is here. What else did Jesus do to show people that Jesus was bringing God’s kingdom to earth and undoing the effects of sin?
- ▶ How can we also join Jesus in proclaiming or showing that the kingdom of heaven is here?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know you are the one true living God who created everything. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so I can be forgiven for worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me think of my community this week and how I can love them well so they might know you.

Craft:

- Use the coloring sheet attached

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Sabbath** rhythm.

What are some ways you can rest in the truth of your identity now in Jesus. Take some time this week or weekend to stop, rest, and spend some intentional time with Jesus so that he can remind you that because he fulfilled God's rescue plan, you now have a new identity in God's kingdom and God now calls you son or daughter.

