



HOPE SERIES

Group conversations - Week 3: The Teachings of the Kingdom

Summary of Session 3 for facilitator:

One of the **central things in Jesus' Kingdom work was teaching people** about the Kingdom of God. This obviously implies that **He shares His Kingdom's work with people; otherwise, why teach them?** Jesus' primary way of teaching was through parables. **Jesus wants us to actively engage with His teachings.** He also tells His disciples it has been **given unto them to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven.** This statement includes **everybody who believes in Jesus: we have been given the grace to know this hidden life of living in and for the Kingdom.** The parable also helps us to see that **some people are not open to receiving Jesus' Kingdom message because of agendas that oppose His teachings.** When we receive this Gospel, we **must take care to remove things that hinder the growth of the Kingdom in us.** The importance of **learning with other believers** is also emphasised this week.

Start the conversation:

Make sure that people introduce themselves if there are new people in the group. Use an ice-breaker to get the conversation going. There will be an opportunity during the video presentation for feedback from the week gone by.

Video:

Remind people that there are going to be certain moments in the video that we are going to pause the video for discussion.

- 1st Pause: Turn to another person and share about the week that passed in the light of last week's conversation about the signs of the arrival of the Kingdom of heaven. What did you become aware of? Were there any new insights, experiences or questions? Make notes of specific prayer points to pray together about at the end of the session and during the week. (This part of the conversation could exceed 5 minutes)
- 2nd Pause: Turn to another person and share your thoughts on the following question: If the Kingdom is arriving through Jesus' authority, why does He also teach people about the Kingdom of Heaven? (5min.)
- 3rd Pause: Turn to another person and share what agendas (ways of thinking) in our world and culture you think oppose the Kingdom agenda seen in Jesus' teachings and life. Try to identify and put these agendas into words. (5min.)

as it is in heaven so be it on earth





Questions to continue the conversation:

- Q: Picture Jesus turning to you, saying the same words He spoke to His disciples: "To you, it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven..." What goes through your mind when you hear these words?
- Q: What can help you discover more of the secrets of this hidden Kingdom life that's already in you in the coming year?
- Q: We are now called to share this gospel in our homes, workplaces and communities. What do you take from this story that will help you to share the good news of the Kingdom, and not get disheartened when people do not receive this message?

End the conversation:

Encourage people to consider this for the week ahead:

- Thank God every day that He has given you the Grace to know the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven, and ask King Jesus to continue to teach you through the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Spirit to help you to discern attitudes, habits or ways of thinking that can hinder the growth of God's Kingdom in you.

Commit to pray for each other also during the week.

Pray together as a group, also for the specific prayer points people brought to the group from last week. Trust Jesus to bring renewal.

