

➔ REFLECTING ON THE CLIP

Is your life more about what you stand for or what you stand against? (Discuss this with your group)

Spend some time reflecting on and discuss some things that other people have stood for with their lives.

➔ ILLUMINATING THE WORD OF GOD

Read Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God in Matthew 13.

(Pick and choose some of the following passages or break into groups and do them all.)

- Matthew 13:24-30 & 13:36-43 – "The Wheat and Weeds"

- Matthew 13:33 – "The Leaven in the Bread"

- Matthew 13:44 – "The Treasure in a Field"

- Matthew 13:45-46 – "The Pearl of Great Value"

- Matthew 13:47-50 – "The Net Thrown into the Sea"

What do these passages tell us about the 'Kingdom of God'? (Discuss or brainstorm onto paper together).

How do these descriptions line up or seem to differ from the world you see around you?

➔ LETTING GOD'S WORD SHAPE LIFE AND ACTION

What would the description of God's Kingdom from Matthew look like if it were played out in your life?

How do these parables in Matthew show us how our lives should be lived in light of being people who are for the Kingdom of God?

What things hinder you from seeing this vision of the Kingdom on earth? How can you remove these hindrances?

What are some practical steps to take, personally and as a group to make a difference in these areas and to be known as people who stand for the Kingdom of God?

➔ PRAYER

Spend time praying the Lord's Prayer together, but make sure you don't just recite it – pray realising what you are praying for, that God's Kingdom might come on this earth.

Pray about the practical steps you will take to bring the Kingdom to earth.

Pray though the Song Book song "we have caught the vision splendid" (Song 833) asking for the Spirit's help to achieve all that the vision entails.



WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

CASEY O'BRIEN MACHADO

Do you know what you stand for?

So often, we get so caught up in knowing what we stand against that we forget what we stand for. We stand for the Kingdom of God. We must keep our eyes fixed on the vision of the Kingdom that God has given us, and then we'll begin to see that Kingdom overtake the kingdom of the world.

➔ KEY QUOTES FROM THE CLIP

"The Salvation Army needs people who are certain of what they stand for. The wider Christian church needs Christians who are certain of what they stand for. Regardless of how the world changes, regardless of Satan's latest tactics, regardless of whatever is going on around us, we stand for the Kingdom of God".

"You are called to stand for the Kingdom of God wherever you have been placed. God has things for you to do to bring His Kingdom – you've just got to tune into them and find out what they are".

