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PARTNERING WITH GOD

SESSION TWO: Kingdom of God



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Kingdom of God

Starter

- What is a film/movie that has been special for you? Why?
- What makes a good and a bad movie trailer?
- Has a movie trailer ever influenced you to watch/not watch a movie?

Video discussion

- Watch the video. What struck you from the video?
- What questions does the video raise for you?
- What did you agree/disagree with? Why?

Bible discussion

- Read the following passages. What do they tell you about the kingdom of God?
The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news'.
(MARK 1:15)
'I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God . . . because that is why I was sent.'
(LUKE 4:43)
'Therefore I tell you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? . . . But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' (MATTHEW 6:25, 33)
'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.' (MATTHEW 6:9)
- What would your community look like if God's will was done there as it is in heaven? What might this mean for people who are lonely, unemployed, single parents, grieving, homeless?
- In what ways are you, in following Jesus, meant to be part of the answer to that prayer?

Action

- What sort of a movie trailer/appetiser is your Christian community? If your faith community were a movie trailer for the Kingdom of God, what would it look like in your area?
- How could your faith community show and bring something of God's kingdom into your area?
- In what ways are you already bringing something of God's kingdom into your community?

Prayer

- Spend time praying the Lord's prayer and asking that God's will be done in your community. Ask God to show you ways that your faith community could be part of bringing God's kingdom into your area.

'What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. . . . They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom.

(N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope)

Recommended reading

Edge, Lynette and Morgan, Gregory. *Partnering with God: Being a Missional Salvationist*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2017 – especially pages 3-9 and 30-33.