

**The Kingdom of God**  
**Lesson 1: An Introduction to the Kingdom Call**  
**LifeWalk Leader Guide**

**Open/Icebreakers:** If someone asked you to define the phrase, “kingdom of God,” how would you respond? Since we live in a democratic society, do we understand the word “kingdom” differently? Why did Jesus use the term “kingdom” to talk about his work here on earth?

**Digging In:**

1. Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 4:23; Luke 4:43 and Matthew 10:7. As you read each passage in its context, what do you learn about the purpose and mission of Jesus and His kingdom?
2. From the Sermon on the Mount, read Matthew 5:3; 5:10; 5:19; the Lord’s Prayer and 6:33. What does participation in this kingdom look like? What priority is given to the Kingdom call?
3. As you read the beginning of Matthew 18, how is greatness defined in this kingdom? Also see Luke 22:24-30.
4. From Luke 17:20, how would you describe the nature of this kingdom?
5. In the time of Jesus (late 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Judaism) there were 3 distinct approaches to bringing about the kingdom of God.
  - Pietistic—remove yourself from worldly influence (Essences)
  - Accomodationist—make friends with current rulers (Sanhedrin)
  - Zealots—revolt against the establishment
6. Share your thoughts on each of these approaches. Are they at work in our world today? What does Jesus say about these approaches?

**Reflection:**

1. How are we called to be the kingdom of God? In what ways can we bring about the rule and reign of God in our world?
2. What distinguishable characteristics do you see Jesus stating when He talks about the Kingdom? How well do your Kingdom priorities line up with His?
3. In what way is the kingdom call of Jesus different than how our world views a “mighty kingdom?”

**Prayer:** Father, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.