

**The Kingdom of God**  
**Lesson 16: The Kingdom of God is In Your Midst**  
**LifeWalk Leader Guide**

**Open/Icebreakers:** Have you ever tried to change an unfair rule or an ineffective policy? How did it go? Why is it so hard to effect change? Have you ever held an opinion that was different from most people? What happens when you voice your opinion? How do you deal with possible negativity from sharing your views?

**Digging In:** Luke 17:20-21

1. The kingdom of God was a “hot topic” in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Different groups shared different thoughts on how they viewed the nature and implementation of kingdom. The context speaks of questions being posed to Jesus by the Pharisees. What did the Pharisees think about the kingdom of God? How did they think it would come about?
2. How do you think they would have answered some of their own questions they were posing to Jesus? What would a Pharisee need to do or how would they need to live to bring about the kingdom of God?
3. What strikes you about Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees? How does His answer call into question their kingdom perspective? What does it mean that the kingdom will not come with observation? What would it mean for the Pharisees to know that the kingdom was “in their midst?”
4. In the time of Jesus, Zealots felt they could bring about the kingdom by force or violence. The Essences pulled away and separated themselves from others in an effort to bring about the kingdom. Sadducees tried to bring about the kingdom through cooperation with the existing governing body and other people were looking for specific signs that would point to the coming kingdom. Are any of these ideas at work in our world today as we consider what it means to be the Kingdom of God?

**Reflection:**

1. In Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees, He seems to deter the notion that the kingdom was something coming in the future or that it was something that could be attached to a certain nation or location. How do you would this view have been received in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century? What are the implications of this teaching?
2. Do we fall into the trap of seeking to bring about the kingdom “with observation” as the Pharisees were? In what way(s) do we do this in our current culture? What is God’s message to us through Jesus?
3. How do we behave as Kingdom Citizens to bring about the kingdom and the will of God on Earth as it is in Heaven? How can we live out the kingdom call “in the midst” of our culture today?
4. How can your group unite to put into practice the kingdom truths of these verses?

**Prayer:** God, help us live out the truth of what it means to “be kingdom.” We fail at this often but want to be representatives of grace and truth in a world that needs your love. Holy Spirit, move my heart to love and service.