

Icebreaker:

As we begin a new Home Group season, please share one thing about this year's Christmas holidays that you are most thankful for.

Please read this week's scripture and discuss the following questions:

1. What is one area of your faith journey you would like to grow in 2019?
2. The title of this series, "Building For God's Kingdom" comes from N.T. Wright. The preposition "for" reminds us that the Kingdom is God's responsibility, while still allowing we have a part to play. Do you tend to focus more on God's role or on your role in God's coming kingdom?
3. In your own life, do you focus more on being shaped like Jesus (e.g. patience, holiness, gentleness, gratitude, passion) or do you focus more on building for God's kingdom (e.g. justice, suffering, community, Sabbath, celebration)?
4. When we pray "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," this is a phrase that is both personal; and majestic and holy. Is it easier for you to see God as Father or as Creator of the universe?
5. Jesus says, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." How do you think God's kingdom will look different than the world in which we now live?
6. Do you struggle with feeling like you are not making a significant difference in building for God's kingdom? Is there one mundane thing that you do that you easily overlook that actually impacts God's kingdom?
7. What about 1 Corinthians 15:58 motivates you? Encourages you? Challenges you?

Prayer:

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

prayer requests

- > Prayers of healing for Rosie Pratt and for Kristen Dunn's mother, Nancy Bowman.
 - > Prayers of comfort for Michelle Ulmer and family in the death of Michelle's mother-in-law.
- [The following are from ZPC's prayer calendar, which is available at the Welcome Center or at zpc.org/prayer.]
- > Prayers for ZPC Youth Inquirers as they learn about God through focusing on how to live as a disciple of Jesus.
 - > For the homeless families staying at ZPC this week. May they find comfort here.

This week, we begin a new season of Home Groups at ZPC with a new theme: *Building for God's Kingdom*. As we become more shaped like Jesus, then we can help reflect God's kingdom in our neighborhoods, communities and world. Please dive in and help lead deep discussion on what God's kingdom looks like, and how we can be part of building for God's kingdom.

1. Ask group members share a thankful memory from Christmas (icebreaker) and what is one way they want to grow in faith this year. Have your own idea ready to go incase you need to get the discussion flowing.
2. Focusing on our role is more active and helps us think about what we can do to make a difference. It can also put pressure on us to solve problems that maybe are meant for God to solve. Focusing on God's role in the kingdom is appropriate since it God's kingdom! However, we still must realize that God's people are a primary way God makes things happen to fulfill his will.
3. Focusing on being shaped like Jesus is more personal holiness oriented and maybe more evangelistic-based theology. Focusing on building for God's kingdom might be more social justice and others based. God calls on us to be open-minded to focus on the personal saving faith of individuals, and to share in major community needs such as bringing justice and fighting poverty in his name.
4. The name Father (for most people) personalizes God. In John's gospel, Jesus talked of being friends with his disciples. God is also holy and majestic – "hallowed" means holy or revered. We are to hold in tension a God who is righteous and awesome and a God who is personal and loving. So is God more Father or Creator – or both?
5. If God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven, help your group think what that will look like. Perhaps there will be more kindness, more peace, more justice, more love, more reverence of God, less tears, less suffering, and less inequality when God's kingdom is more here in our midst.
6. Many of us can be our own worst critics. We can doubt whether or not we play a part in God's plan. I'm not worthy, I'm not good enough, I've done too many wrong things. There are probably many daily actions you take that make a difference. A phone call, or a text, or reaching out to a friend, providing help to young children or elderly parents, when done with kindness and grace, can make significant impact for this world to look more like God's kingdom.
7. Your work is not in vain. Stand firm. Always give yourselves fully to God's work. God's work is a high calling and is also attainable by people who ask for God's help and are available to be used by the Holy Spirit.