



Week Leading up to 11.21.21: The Kingdom of God

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 18:33b-37

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, we long to be a part of Your eternal kingdom. Help us to recognize the truth in Your Living Word and trust in Your goodness in all areas of our lives. In Your Holy Name. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What do you think/feel is the kingdom Jesus is referring to in this reading?

Leaders: We recommend watching this video twice with your group since it is so short and has quite a bit of information.

YouTube Video: What is the Kingdom of God with Bishop Barron (2:04)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC9yepedQb8>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Bishop Barron shares that the original sin of Adam and Eve is a falling apart of God and humanity. What do you think/feel he means by this? Can you elaborate on how you think/feel original sin led to all other future sins?
3. Does Bishop Barron's explanation that the Kingdom of God is the knitting together of divinity and humanity help you to understand the importance of Jesus and how He is the "Kingdom of God?" How so?
4. Bishop Barron also shares that "The Kingdom" is the church or mystical body. What does this mean to you? How do you think/feel the sacraments (especially baptism, penance and the Eucharist) relate to entering the "Kingdom of God"?
5. How do you think/feel that the "Kingdom of God" has come and yet still needs to come? Can you elaborate on this?
6. What is our role in helping to build the "Kingdom of God"? What specific things do you do or desire to do?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Ask God to identify a particular sin in your life that you need to remove. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the perseverance and desire to overcome this sin and go to confession to receive God's healing grace.
- Write out two lists. The 1st list can be all of the activities you do on a monthly basis. The 2nd list is only those things you do on a monthly basis to help build the "Kingdom of God" and serve others. Some examples would be: sharing the gospel with others, supporting the liturgy through worship or service, teaching children about God, supporting a ministry, inviting others to join you for a religious event, serving the poor, etc. Pray over both of these lists and ask God if anything needs to be removed from the 1st list to make time to help build the "Kingdom of God" on list 2.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear God, You are truly beyond our understanding. We are in great awe of Your power and love for us. You mercifully look past our sinfulness when we repent and desperately want us to live in Your kingdom. Create in us a great desire to be closely united with You in holiness so that Your sanctifying grace may flow through us. We pray in a special way at this time to the Holy Spirit to request that You enliven within us the supernatural gifts we need to continue Your work in building the "Kingdom of God". Give us the courage we need to live in such a broken world and the fortitude to march forward as Your loving disciples. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Dn 7:13-14** Sunday Reading 2: **Rv 1:5-8**