

Reading Tracks

TRACK ONE

Follow along with basics of the story in a short selection of readings this week..

Monday: Matthew 13

Tuesday: Luke 12:13-21, Luke 14: 15-23

Wednesday: Mark 4:1-34

Thursday: Luke 6:39-49

Friday: Luke 15:1-10

Saturday: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

TRACK TWO

Get a little bigger perspective by reading assigned sections from *The Story* © 2011 by Zondervan.

Read pages 335-340 this week.

TRACK THREE

Get the whole story by reading through most of the Bible in longer sections.

In your Bible, read Mark 7-10 this week. .

This Week's Scripture Memory Verse

Matthew 13: 33 "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Next Week in Worship

Next Weeks' Message: *Jesus Heals*

Next Week's readings: Mark 2:1-12, Isaiah 53:1-6

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God in parables, helping us to understand the power of God in surprising ways. When *The Big God Story* continues next week, we'll see Jesus not just teaching about the Kingdom of God but demonstrating its power in miraculous healings.



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Group Discussion

Connect

When you hear the word “Kingdom” what images come to mind for you?

Are they positive or negative images? What role do you imagine for yourself in a kingdom?

Learn

Jesus did a lot of teaching in parables, teaching spiritual truths through images of daily life. One of the most frequent subjects Jesus taught about was the Kingdom of God.

Read Luke 17:20-21

What is Jesus trying to teach us here about the Kingdom ? What is it not? Where can we find it?

The words translated “Kingdom of God” actually mean: “where the King Rules”. The Kingdom of God is found, where the king is reigning— where he is claimed as Lord! Remembering this, what do these parables of Jesus teach about what it looks like “where the king reigns?” Read these parables of Jesus, writing down what you learn about God’s Kingdom (where he reigns) from each.

Matthew 13: 31-32: Mustard seed

Matthew 13: 33: The yeast and the dough

Matthew 13:43-46: Treasure in a field/Fine pearls

Matthew 13:46-48: The catch of fish

Matthew 18:22-24: The kingdom belongs...

Matthew 19:23-25: Workers in the vineyard

Matthew 25: 1-3: The lamps

Mark 4: 25-27: The scattered seed

Luke 12:31-32: Seek, be not afraid

What do each of these parables and teachings show us about living into God’s kingdom?

Apply

This week, take the list of things that you’ve learned about God’s kingdom—the characteristics that define that kingdom— and look for places where you see that kingdom in yourself, or in those around you.

Or, have you noticed ways you are acting more as a citizen of the earthly kingdoms rather than of the Kingdom of God? Confess those things to God— and ask him for redirection.

Pray

Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord’s prayer, “Your Kingdom Come.”

As you pray that prayer this week, pray that the Holy Spirit would help you see how God’s kingdom is finding traction in your own life, and open you to be a vessel of that kingdom life to those around you.