



AMBASSADORS



Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC

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AMBASSADORS OF THE KINGDOM

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Note: It is recommended that the Amplified Version of the Bible be used with this study guide.

SESSION 1: JESUS AS KING AND JUDGE

1. Key Scripture

- a) Ephesians 1:19-23
- b) 1 Corinthians 15:23-28
- c) Revelation 1:12-18
- d) Revelation 19:10-16

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the scope of the authority given to Jesus Christ by God, the Father? (Eph. 1:19-23; 1 Co. 15:23-28)?

- b) How did John describe Jesus when he had a revelation of Him in the midst of the seven lampstands/churches? (Rev. 1:12-16)

- c) What characteristics did Jesus reveal about Himself when John fell at His feet (Rev. 1:17-18)?

- d) How did John describe Jesus when He saw Him in heaven, ready to tread the winepress (Rev. 19:12-15)?

- e) What title is written on the garment and thigh of Jesus (Rev. 19:16)?

- f) What are the characteristics of Jesus Christ as Judge (Rev. 19:11)?

3. Personal questions

a) What is your understanding of Jesus as King and Judge?

b) What is your relationship with Jesus as King and Judge?

c) How does your life honour Jesus as King and Judge?

d) How do you need to respond to Christ as King and Judge?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure to grow in my knowledge of Christ as King and Judge.
- b) That I will make sure that my life honours Christ as King and Judge.

SESSION 2: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Matthew 3:1-2
- b) Matthew 4:17, 23
- c) Luke 4:43
- d) 1 Corinthians 4:20
- e) Romans 14:17
- f) Matthew 6:9-10,13, 33
- g) Matthew 7:13-27
- h) 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- i) Ephesians 5:5

2. Let's reflect

- a) What did Jesus preach about from the start of His ministry (Matt. 4:17, 23; Luke 4:43)? And John, the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2)?

- b) How is the kingdom of God described (1 Co. 4:20)?

- c) What is the kingdom of God about (Rom. 14:17)?

- d) What should be the starting point of all our prayers (Matt. 6:9-10)? And the ending (Matt. 6:13)?

- e) What should you be seeking and striving for first of all (Matt. 6:33)?

- f) Who will qualify to enter the kingdom (Matt. 7:13-21)? Who will not have any share/inheritance in the kingdom (1 Co. 6:9-10; Eph 5:5)?

- g) Are some people deceived into believing that they will enter the kingdom of heaven, while they may not (Matt. 7:18-27)?

3. Personal questions

- a) What is your understanding of the kingdom of God? Do you have a clear understanding of who qualifies to enter the kingdom and who cannot enter?

- b) What is the beginning and end of your prayers?

- c) Do you strive first and foremost to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness?

- d) Do you meet the requirements of obedience to enter the kingdom?

4. Prayer points

- That I will grow in my understanding of God's kingdom and who will enter it.
- That I will make God's kingdom the beginning and end of all my prayers.
- That I will strive first and foremost to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.
- That I will meet the requirements of obedience to enter the kingdom.

SESSION 3: SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Key Scripture

- a) Hebrews 1:8-9
- b) Psalm 45:6-7
- c) Psalm 89:14

2. Let's reflect

- a) How is the throne and scepter of Christ's kingdom described (He. 1:9; Ps. 45:6)?

- b) How does the scepter of Christ reflect the characteristics of Christ (He. 1:8; Ps. 45:6-7)?

- c) How is the throne of God described (Ps 89:14)? How is God's throne and God's scepter aligned?

3. Personal questions

- a) How important is it to know that both God's throne and scepter are based in God's righteousness and justice? And that truth goes before Him?

- b) As an ambassador of Christ, how can you represent God's throne and scepter of righteousness?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will appreciate the fact that both God's scepter and God's throne is based in righteousness and justice.
- b) That I will be an ambassador of God's throne and scepter through prayer, action and truth.

SESSION 4: THE BASIS OF JUDGEMENT

1. Key Scripture

- a) John 3:1-21
- b) Acts 2: 36-38
- c) Romans 8:1
- d) 2 Corinthians 13:5
- e) 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8-12

2. Let's reflect

- a) According to Jesus, what is the primary requisite to get to know and experience the kingdom of God (John 3:3)

- b) What does it mean to be born again (John 3:5-6)

- c) How does one get this new eternal life of the Spirit (John 3:12-16; Acts 2:36-38)?

- d) What was the main reason why God sent His Son the first time (John 3:17)? What will be His purpose when His Son return the second time (2 Thes. 2:1,8-12)?

- e) What is the basis of judgement (John 3:19-20)?

- f) Who is judged and condemned (John 3:18)? Who will not be condemned (Rom. 8:1)?

- g) Why is it important to examine yourself (2 Co. 13:5)?

3. Personal questions

a) What is your understanding of being born again?

b) Is there evidence in your life that you were truly born again? To what extent is repentance part of your life?

c) If you examine yourself, do you find evidence that you are holding to the faith and showing the proper fruits of it?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure that I have a correct understanding of what it means to be born again.
- b) That I will make sure that I am born again through faith and repentance.
- c) That I will examine myself to make sure that I am holding to the faith and showing the proper fruits of it.

SESSION 5: THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

1. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Corinthians 5:10
- b) Acts 10:36-43
- c) 1 Corinthians 15:3-10
- d) Romans 5:6-10
- e) Romans 6:1-23
- f) Hebrews 6:1-3

2. Let's reflect

- a) Who will appear before the judgement seat of Christ one day (2 Co. 5:10)? On what will they be judged?

- b) Reflecting on the good news of the Gospel, for what purpose did God appoint Jesus of Nazareth for (Acts 10:36-38)?

- c) What did Jesus charge the early apostles to preach and to bear testimony about (Acts 10:42-43)?

- d) What are the key events of the Gospel (1 Co. 15:3-10)?

- e) What is the key message of the Gospel (Rom. 5:6-10)?

- f) How does acceptance of the Gospel lead to a new life in Christ (Rom. 6:1-23)?

- g) What represents the elementary stage of the teachings of Jesus from which you need to grow towards maturity (He. 6:1-3)?

3. Personal questions

- a) What is your understanding of the Gospel?

- b) How has the Gospel of the kingdom become a reality in your life?

- c) Have you been buried with Christ in baptism and raised into a new life in Him?

- d) Do you see evidence in your life that you now live as a servant of righteousness (no longer under the rule of sin)?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure that I have a clear understanding of the Gospel.
- b) That I will make sure that the Gospel of the kingdom has become a reality in my life.
- c) That I will make sure that I have been raised into a new life with Christ, living as a servant of righteousness.
- d) That I will make sure to build on the right foundation of repentance towards maturity.

SESSION 6: REPENTENCE AND FAITH

1. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Corinthians 7:10
- b) Matthew 3:2
- c) Matthew 4:17
- d) Hebrews 6:1-3
- e) James 4:6-10
- f) Hebrews 12: 5-17

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the outcome of true repentance as opposed to worldly sorrow (2 Co. 7:10)?

- b) What is the connection between repentance and the kingdom of God (Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17)?

- c) What is the connection between repentance and faith (He. 6:1-3)?

- d) How does God respond to us when we repent in humility (Jam. 4:6-10)?

- e) Is there a point where the opportunity to repent may be gone (He. 12:15-17)?

- f) In light of this, how should we view God's discipline and respond to it (He. 12:5-14)?

3. Personal questions

- a) How would you describe the difference between worldly sorrow and true repentance?

- b) How much is repentance part of your daily life?

- c) How do you respond to God's discipline?

- d) What is the evidence of repentance in your life?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will have an increased understanding of true repentance.
- b) That I will cheerfully submit to God's discipline in my life.
- c) That I will make sure that I show the fruit of true repentance in my life.

SESSION 7: MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

1. Key Scripture

- a) Matthew 13:1-53

2. Let's reflect

- a) How are the mysteries of the kingdom hidden and revealed in fulfillment of Psalm 78:2 (Matt. 13:10-13, 34-35)? Who is able to understand the mysteries of the kingdom (Matt. 13:11-12)?

- b) What is the meaning of the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:1-9; 18-23)?

- c) What is the meaning of the parable of the dandelion (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)?

- d) With what else is the kingdom of heaven compared (Matt. 13:31-32, 44-50)?

- e) How is a disciple that is trained for the kingdom described (Matt. 13:52)?

3. Personal questions

- a) How well do you know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom?

- b) What is your attitude towards the kingdom? What is the value that you put on the kingdom and what effort do you put in to gain its treasures?

- c) How important is it for you to be trained as a disciple of the kingdom?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure to know the mysteries of the kingdom.
- b) That I will seek the kingdom and align my life with the priorities of God's kingdom.
- c) That I will seek to be trained as a disciple of the kingdom.

SESSION 8: SIGNIFICANCE OF GOD'S WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) John 1:1
- b) Revelation 19:13
- c) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- d) Hebrews 4:12
- e) Romans 10:17
- f) 1 Peter 1: 22-23
- g) 1 Peter 2:2
- h) John 17:17
- i) Hebrews 5:12-14
- j) Psalm 119: 130
- k) Psalm 107:17-20
- l) Proverbs 4:20-22
- m) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- n) John 14:26
- o) James 1:21-25

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the relationship between Christ and the Word of God (John 1:1; Rev. 19:13)?

- b) Where does the authority and power of Scripture come from (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?
What is the power of God's Word (He. 4:12)?

- c) How does faith come to a person (Rom. 10:17)? What role does the Word play in the new birth (1 Pe. 1:23)?

- d) What role does the Word of God play in changing us inwardly, cleansing and sanctifying us (John 17:17; 1 Pe. 1:22-23)?

- e) How does the Word nourish us (1 Pe. 2:2)? How do we move from spiritual milk to solid food (He. 5:12-14)?

- f) How does the Word bring understanding (Ps. 119:130)?

- g) How does the Word bring healing to our lives (Ps. 107:17-20; Pro. 4:20-22)?

- h) What is the role of Scripture in making us complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?

- i) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us to apply the Scripture to our lives (John 14:26)?

- j) How is a person described who receives and obeys the Word of God as oppose to a person who walks away and does not follow in obedience (Jam. 1:21-25)?

3. Personal questions

- a) How disciplined are you in studying the Scripture on a daily basis?

- b) How will you describe the influence of Scripture on your life?

- c) Which actions do you need to take to gain a deeper understanding and application of Scripture to your life?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will value the significance of God's Word in my life.
- b) That I will be disciplined to study the Scripture and to apply it to my life consistently.
- c) That I will be led by the Holy Spirit to grow in obedience to the Word.
- d) That I will aim to grow to completeness through conforming to God's will in thoughts, purpose and action.

SESSION 9: AMBASSADORS OF THE KINGDOM

1. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
- b) 1 Peter 1:14-17
- c) 1 Peter 2:9-18
- d) 2 Peter 1:5-11

2. Let's reflect

- a) As Christ's ambassadors, who and what are we representing (2 Co. 5:18-21)?

- b) What is the purpose of God's people (1 Pe. 2:9)?

- c) How should our behaviour display the virtues of God (1 Pe. 2:11-18)?

- d) What are the characteristics that we should demonstrate as God's people (1 Pe. 1:14-17)?

- e) What are qualities of the divine nature (2 Pe. 1:5-7)?

- f) Why is it important to develop these qualities (2 Pe. 1: 8-11)?

3. Personal questions

- a) Do you see yourself as an ambassador of Christ and the ministry of reconciliation?

- b) To which extent do you have the qualities that are part of a mature spiritual character?

- c) How serious are you about your role as Christ's ambassador and displaying God's virtues?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will take my role as ambassador of Christ seriously.
- b) That I will make sure that spiritual maturity is an important goal in my life.
- c) That I will take intentional steps to develop the qualities associated with spiritual maturity by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

SESSION 10: SALT AND LIGHT

1. Key Scripture

- a) John 12:44-50
- b) Matthew 5:1-16
- c) Mark 9:50
- d) Colossians 4:6
- e) Luke 14:25-35

2. Let's reflect

- a) Whose light are we reflecting as ambassadors of the kingdom (John 12:44-50)? How do we do it?

- b) What is the purpose of being salt and light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-15)?

- c) How can we be salt on earth (Mark 9:50; Col 4:6)?

- d) What is the connection between being salt and being a wholehearted disciple of Christ (Luke 14:25-35)? Is there a cost involved in being such a disciple (Luke 14:27-33)?

3. Personal questions

- a) Does your life represent being salt and light in a dark world?

- b) In looking at the teachings of Jesus, how much does your life reflect the characteristics of a wholehearted disciple representing salt and light?

c) How serious are you in developing these characteristics?

4. Prayer points

- a) That my constant goal be to live a that life represents salt and light to the world.
- b) That my life will reflect the characteristics of a wholehearted disciple.
- c) That I will be serious in developing these characteristics in increasing measure.

SESSION 11: LOVE AND KINDNESS

1. Key Scripture

- a) Luke 6:27-36

2. Let's reflect

- a) What did Jesus ask from those who listened to Him and wanted to obey Him (Luke 6:27-38) ?

- b) Why should we respond to those all people with love and kindness (Luke 6:32-36)?

3. Personal questions

- a) In which way are God's instructions different than normal human reactions when people hurt us?

- b) How important is it to you to respond to all people with love and kindness?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will have a clear Biblical understanding of how I should treat all people.
b) That I will respond in obedience and be led by the Holy Spirit continually.

SESSION 12: A LIFE OF HOLINESS

1. Key Scripture

- a) 1 Peter 1:13-16
- b) 2 Timothy 1:8-9
- c) 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 and 7:1
- d) Ephesians 4:20-24
- e) Titus 2:11-13

2. Let's reflect

- a) What are the reasons why we should live a life of holiness (1 Pe 1:13-16; 2 Tim 1:8-9)? How are we to show it?

- b) What is our personal responsibility when it comes to holiness in light of knowing Christ (2 Corinthians 6:16-18 and 7:1; Ephesians 4:20-24)?

- c) What is a promise of encouragement to help us (Titus 2:11-13; 2 Pe 1:2-4)?

3. Personal questions

- e) How serious are you about pursuing holiness/godliness? What are your reasons for this?

- f) How much personal responsibility do you take to live a life of holiness?

- g) Does your personal life reflect the same level of godliness as your public life?

h) In which areas do you need to grow?

4. Prayer points

- a) That I will be serious to pursue godliness.
- b) That I will receive God's grace and power in abundance to reject all ungodliness and to live a life, reflecting God's holiness.
- c) That I will make sure that both my private and public life reflect godliness.
- d) That I will grow in godliness on a daily basis.