

LT2 Module 3 - Naturally Supernatural Small Groups

Video Outline and Notes

Introduction:

What is the ***Kingdom of God***?

This was the main theology of Jesus and it is riddled throughout the gospels. The kingdom simply means that it is how things would look if GOD's will was always done. It means that God is King, He rules and what He says goes!

How did Jesus demonstrate the Kingdom of God?

Jesus spoke the ***words*** of God and demonstrated the ***works*** of God. We want to be Kingdom people. We want to live in a way that expects that God's will to be done and expect that he will come. We do not want our weekly small groups to grow into nice conversation and discussion around the Bible without the life changing presence of the Holy Spirit in our groups.

As leaders, Jesus should be our model for ministry. Our words and actions should both reflect the kingdom. We want our small groups to change lives by the ***power*** and ***presence*** of the Holy Spirit.

That being said, the Kingdom has not fully come. The Kingdom of God was initiated by Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. We live in the tension of the "***already***" and the "***not yet***".

Outline -

- I. How do we ***practice*** the Kingdom of God?
 - a. ***Create space*** for people to hear from God.
 - b. ***Ask*** God to come and ***ask*** him for whatever the need or want is.
 - c. Exercise ***faith*** and trust in God's good character.
 - d. We need to be motivated by ***compassion***. "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick." - Matthew 14:14
 - e. We believe that God has given us his ***authority*** to intervene. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I

have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20

- f. We value “non-hype” and a low-key ***style***. During ministry, we want to allow God’s agenda to be done and not our own. God can hear you without screaming, God can hear you without fancy or super formal language. Pray from the heart. No reason to use a lot of words. Be yourself before God.
- II. What ways might the Holy Spirit interact with people in your group?
- a. God communicates miraculously to us through his ***word***.
 - b. God communicates through ***intersecting thoughts***.
 - c. God communicates through an experience of ***peace***.
 - d. God communicates through Words of Knowledge or “***prophetic*** words.”
 - e. There are common ***signs*** of Spirit’s presence.
 - 1. Swaying
 - 2. Hands shaking
 - 3. Weeping
 - 4. Fluttering eyelids
 - 5. Warmth/heat
 - 6. A glow and/or laughter
- III. God wants to ***interact*** with you and your group!

Three questions to REGULARLY ask yourself regarding your group:

1. In our small group, do we regularly create a space to hear from God and wait on Him to speak to us?
2. Are we seeing any of these evidences of His presence in our small group life?
3. How can we teach and train our group to hear God’s voice in this setting but also in their everyday lives? (We could: Go through a series on the Holy Spirit, take Meeting God together as a small group, practice regular ministry time in group and once again explain what you are doing and why each week as you engage in ministry.)

LT2 Module 3 - Exercise Sheet

As you practice the habit of creating space to Meet with God in group – it is important to incorporate these practices into your own life! As you try new things in your private life with God you are able to incorporate these practices into how you practice meeting God in your groups.

Here is a really simple practice that you can do just you and Jesus but also can be practiced in your group.

This is a stillness exercise. The reason we do this is so that we essentially are learning to be present. To live in the present is really the only actual place to live! To live in the past or worrying about the future – keeps us from seeing what is actually happening in our lives: what is happening in us, through us and what God is up to around us. We want to be people who are present – so we can sense and experience God's presence in our present circumstances.

We have busy lives. Let's stop regularly, turn our attention to God's nearness and settle into reality.

Five minutes of Stillness:

Sit down and say "I am seated, I am doing nothing, and I am doing nothing for 5 minutes," and then relax. Then continually throughout this time realize, "I am here I the presence of God, in my own presence, and in the presence of all the furniture (or natural surroundings) that is around me, just still, moving nowhere."

There is one more thing you should do: decide within these 2-5 minutes which you have assigned to learning that the present exists, you will not be pulled out of it by the telephone by a knock on the door, by an incoming email or text or by some splurge of energy that prompts you to do at once what you have left undone for the last 10 years.

So you settle down and say, "Here I am" and you are.

If you learn to do this at lost moments of your life when you have learned not to fidget inwardly but to be completely calm and happy, stable and serene, then extend the few minutes longer and then to a longer while still.

You can easily do this exercise alone or in your group. We encourage you to do this as a way of remembering it's God who is in control. To remember that without Him, we can do nothing. To remember that the world won't end if we stop moving.