



[FOR the Kingdom]

Week Three | Be Ready | 09.10-11.2022

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal study time or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: For thousands of years, there has been tension for every person following Jesus or thinking about taking that step. Jesus explained this tension as He described the Kingdom of Heaven. **What if the kind of kingdom we are made for looks as upside down as Jesus shared?** Let's discover how living for that kingdom can change how we live in this one.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting or if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What are the commonly accepted ideas of how we treat people today?
- Digging Deeper: How do you personally navigate a desire for justice with the call to grace from God?

» Observation | Read Matthew 5:43-48

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | The invisible kingdom is made visible by uncommon citizens.

(12 minutes)

- Who are historical U. S. citizens that were uncommon for their times? How did they change our country?
- What benefits are there to being common? What risks are associated with standing up for uncommon or opposed beliefs?

» Uncommon Sense | Read Matthew 5:43-45; Deuteronomy 10:12-17; Romans 13:8-9

(12 minutes)

- How have we redefined and diluted the meaning of love, so that non-romantic love seems like an awkward idea?
- What would loving others - especially enemies - look like if we mirror an impartial God's actions?

» Uncommon Courtesy | Reread Matthew 5:46-47; Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Romans 13:10

(12 minutes)

- Do we view ourselves as citizens of Heaven and sojourners here on earth? Why or why not?
- If our neighbors are not our chosen companions, how can we still show them compassion, courtesy, and love?

» Uncommon Character | Reread Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 10:20-21; Romans 13:11-14

(12 minutes)

- Is it challenging to think of God as perfect when our world is such a mess? How should that affect our character?
- What does it mean to walk in the light and cast off the works of darkness? Does it feel like salvation is nearer to us now?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What does the work of regularly abiding in Jesus look like in your life? What is the next step God is calling you to in this season?
- Close by praying for one another to process through the vision, intention, and means of God's work in and through you.