



# LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

**5 WEEK BIBLE STUDY FOR  
SMALL GROUPS**

BY CHRIS CORRADINO



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# Living Out the Kingdom

*5 Week Bible Study for Small Groups*

MINDSHIFT  MINISTRIES

Pray First, Love Deeply, Act Courageously

*First published by Mindshift Ministries 2025*

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*First edition*

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# 1

## Week 1: The Rejected Cornerstone

**W**e all build our lives on something—our own plans, ambitions, or expectations. But Jesus calls us to build on Him, the true cornerstone. This week, we'll explore what it means to make Christ the foundation of our faith and how rejecting Him leads to brokenness, but accepting Him brings life.



**Pillars of Belief**

“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.



### **Illuminating Insights**

This parable tells us that God's kingdom is for those who honor Him, not for those who reject His authority. The tenants in the story wanted to take control of the vineyard for themselves, and when the son came, they rejected him. The big takeaway is that Jesus is the cornerstone of God's kingdom. We are invited to build our lives on Him, not on our own ambitions. Rejection of Jesus comes with consequences, but accepting Him means being part of a kingdom that produces good fruit.



## **Living the Word**

Take a moment to reflect on your own life. Are there areas where you've tried to take control, or even rejected God's leadership? This parable is a reminder that our lives are meant to bear fruit for God, not for ourselves. Jesus is the foundation of everything we do, and we are called to trust His authority in every part of our lives. This week, try to see the areas where God might be calling you to surrender control to Him. Ask Him to show you where you can bear fruit for His kingdom—whether it's through serving others, showing kindness, or deepening your relationship with Him.

## **Group Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think the tenants in this parable represent?
2. How does this parable help us understand the seriousness of rejecting God's authority?
3. In what ways can we sometimes act like the tenants, trying to control our own lives?



## WEEK 1: THE REJECTED CORNERSTONE

4. What does it mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone of your life?
5. How can we be more intentional about producing fruit for God's kingdom this week?



### **Prayerful Pathways**

Father, thank You for the truth in Your Word. Help us recognize areas where we may be resisting Your leadership. We want to build our lives on the cornerstone that is Jesus. Give us the courage to trust You fully and to bear fruit that honors You. Amen.

## 2

### Week 2: The Call to a New Kind of Greatness

**I**n a world that defines greatness by power and success, Jesus turns everything upside down. True greatness isn't about being served but about serving others. This week, we'll discover how Jesus calls us to a life of humility and selfless love.





## **Pillars of Belief**

“Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked him for something. And he said to her, ‘What do you want?’ She said to him, ‘Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.’

Jesus answered, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?’ They said to him, ‘We are able.’ He said to them, ‘You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.’ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’” Matthew 20:20-28 (ESV)



### **Illuminating Insights**

Jesus teaches that greatness in His kingdom looks nothing like greatness in the world. The world often measures greatness by power, status, and position, but in God's kingdom, it's about serving others. Jesus, the greatest of all, came to serve, not to be served. He challenges us to live with humility and to embrace a life of service.



### **Living the Word**

It's easy to get caught up in the world's definition of success—climbing the ladder, gaining recognition, or looking out for ourselves. But Jesus calls us to a different way of living. He calls us to greatness through serving others. This week, take a look at your life and ask, “How can I serve others more?” Maybe it's helping a friend, volunteering, or putting someone else's needs above your own. Living this out can be a powerful way to show the world a different kind of greatness—one that reflects Christ's love and humility.



### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “Whoever would be great among you must be your servant”?
2. Why do you think the disciples were upset when James and John made their request?
3. How can serving others help us grow in humility?
4. What are some practical ways we can serve others this week?
5. What does it look like to follow Jesus’ example of greatness in our daily lives?

### **Prayerful Pathways**

Jesus, thank You for showing us the true meaning of greatness. Help us to serve others as You did, with humility and love. Teach us to put the needs of others above our own and to reflect Your heart in all we do. Amen.



# 3

## Week 3: The Power of Faithful Obedience

**O**bedience isn't just about words—it's about action. In this parable, Jesus challenges us to examine whether our faith is just lip service or if it truly shapes how we live. This week, we'll explore what it means to say "yes" to God with our actions, not just our intentions.



### Pillars of Belief

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the second and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.” Matthew 21:28-32 (ESV)



### **Illuminating Insights**

This parable highlights the importance of obedience. It's not about what we say but about what we do. The first son initially refused to obey but then changed his mind and did the work. The second son said the right things but

did nothing. Jesus emphasizes that true obedience isn't just about words, but about action—about doing what God asks us to do, even when it's hard.



### **Living the Word**

We all have moments where it's easy to say the right things but harder to follow through. This parable reminds us that God values our obedience over our promises. When we say “yes” to God, it's not just about our words—it's about our actions. Take a moment this week to reflect on any areas of your life where you've been saying “yes” but not following through. What does it look like to fully obey God in that area? It's never too late to change our minds and do what God asks.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. What does this parable teach us about the difference between words and actions?
2. Why do you think Jesus pointed to the tax collectors and prostitutes as examples of true faith?
3. In what areas of your life is it hardest to follow through with God's

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commands?

4. How can we practice true obedience in our daily lives?
5. What are some practical ways we can ensure that our actions align with our faith?



### **Prayerful Pathways**

Father, help us to be faithful in our obedience. Teach us that it's not enough to speak the right words; we must follow through with our actions. Show us the areas of our lives where we need to align more fully with Your will. Give us the strength and willingness to obey, even when it's difficult. Amen.



## Week 4: Generosity in God's Kingdom

**G**od's grace doesn't work like a paycheck—it's not about what we think we deserve. In this parable, Jesus shows us that God's generosity is abundant, surprising, and often different from our sense of fairness. This week, we'll reflect on how we respond to God's grace and how we can extend that same generosity to others.



## **Pillars of Belief**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’

So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’

And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’

Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”  
Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)



### **Illuminating Insights**

This parable illustrates the generosity of God's kingdom. It's easy to think that God operates based on human standards of fairness, but the truth is that His grace and generosity go beyond what we expect. God gives freely and abundantly, regardless of when we come to Him. The big idea is that God's generosity doesn't follow our sense of fairness, but His love for us is unconditional.



### **Living the Word**

In our world, we often want to compare and measure—whether it's in work, rewards, or blessings. But God's kingdom is about grace. This week, think about how you view God's generosity. Are there places in your life where you're holding onto bitterness or resentment because you feel like someone else has been given more than you? Instead, ask God to help you embrace His generosity, knowing that His grace is always enough for you.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. What does this parable teach us about God's generosity?
2. Why do you think the workers who were hired first complained about receiving the same as those hired last?
3. How do we often measure fairness in our own lives, and how does God's generosity challenge that?
4. How can we show more generosity in our relationships and in the way we serve others?
5. What are some ways we can embrace God's grace and generosity in our own lives?



### **Prayerful Pathways**

Lord, thank You for Your generous heart. We acknowledge that Your grace is more than we deserve, and we thank You for it. Help us to embrace Your generosity and to live with open hearts towards others. Teach us to reflect Your love and kindness in all we do. Amen.

# 5

## Week 5: The Greatest Commandment

**A**t the heart of God's kingdom is love—love for Him and love for others. Jesus tells us that everything in Scripture hinges on these two commands. This week, we'll dive into what it means to live a life shaped by love and how this transforms our faith and relationships.





## **Pillars of Belief**

“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him: ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)



## **Illuminating Insights**

At the heart of God’s kingdom is love—love for God and love for others. Jesus makes it clear that everything else in the Bible depends on these two commands. Loving God with everything we have and loving others as we love ourselves are the foundations of the Christian life. The big idea is that our

relationships with God and people are central to living out God's kingdom.



### **Living the Word**

Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind can feel like a big challenge, but it's a choice we make every day. This week, think about how you can grow in your love for God. What does it look like to love Him with your heart, soul, and mind? How can you show love to others, especially those who are hard to love? Reflect on the ways that love transforms relationships and brings God's kingdom to life here on earth.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. How does loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind change our daily lives?
2. Why do you think Jesus says the second commandment is like the first?
3. In what ways can we love others as we love ourselves?



## WEEK 5: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

4. How do these two commandments tie together with everything else God asks of us?
5. What are some practical ways we can grow in loving God and others?



### **Prayerful Pathways**

Lord, we thank You for Your command to love You and love others. We recognize that love is the foundation of Your kingdom, and we want to live this out in our lives. Help us to love You with all our heart, soul, and mind. Show us how to love others as You have loved us. Amen.

