

Lesson 1: The Kingdom of God

Part 1

When Jesus walked on earth, He shared His plan. This plan is mentioned 98 times in the New Testament. Jesus says it is the entire reason He was sent, and He sends His disciples to teach about it as well. Paul talked about it, and we are encouraged to pray for it.

- Do you know what it is?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the following verses and answer the questions:

- Matthew 10:5-8 – What did Jesus send the disciples to teach about?
- Luke 4:43 – Why was Jesus sent?
- Acts 1:3 – What did Jesus teach about during His last forty days on earth?
- Acts 28:30-31 – What did Paul teach about?

HIT PLAY NOW TO CONTINUE

Part 2

Listen to this story about the previous King of Thailand.

Thailand is a kingdom! The previous king, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, was a wonderful King and loved by all the people. Even though he has now passed away, the people still speak of him with great affection. He said he liked the colour yellow, so the people all wore yellow shirts on Mondays. He said his wife liked purple, so many people wore purple shirts on Fridays. He was **so loved and admired** that just saying he liked a colour affected how people dressed.

At one time during his reign, the military took over the government in Thailand. There was fighting on the streets. The supporters of the government fought the supporters of the army. Everyone was concerned it would become very serious. And then the king spoke. He told everyone to stop fighting and to prepare to have elections. The fighting stopped

immediately. Nobody questioned the king; they just did what he said. Even if they still felt angry, it didn't matter. The king had spoken and pleasing the king was more important than their feelings.

- How did the king's desires impact their behaviour?
- Have you ever known a king like this?
- Why did the people listen to the king? Was it out of fear or love?
- Do we treat King Jesus like the Thai people treated their King? Do we seek to please Him in all that we do?

HIT PLAY NOW TO CONTINUE

Part 3

Read Colossians 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:31.

If you are leading a class

Facilitator Instructions: *Draw the following chart on the board. Go through the first two examples together. Then work together as a class to list 10 more common activities. Divide the class into small groups and give each small group some of the activities to discuss what they would put in the second and third column.*

For each activity think about:

- What is the typical attitude of people doing this task?
- How can you do it to bring Glory to God?

Activity	Typical Attitude	Future Actions to Glorify God
Washing the dishes or clothes	<i>Done quickly and complain</i>	<i>I will do a better job to make them as clean as possible. I will sing a song to God, thanking Him that I can work, and that this work is for Him.</i>
Weeding the field	<i>Many weeds are left because it is hard work. People often start late and don't finish the job.</i>	<i>I will start early and remove ALL of the weeds. I will sing a song to God while I work and take pride that I have done a good job for my family and God.</i>