

Unleashing the Kingdom of God into the World

OPENING

- What do you think heaven will be like?
- Describe a "heaven on earth" experience that you have had—one that you would like to repeat again and again.

READ REVELATION 5:1-14

- Why was Jesus worthy to open the scroll?
- What does it mean that Jesus is both a Lion and a Lamb?
- Who are the priests on earth (v.10)?
- What do we learn about His Kingdom from this passage?
- What would the visions in this chapter have meant to the persecuted Christians this passage was written to?
- What does this vision say to us as we engage this out-of-control world?

READ MATTHEW 13:44-46

- What do these two parables teach about the value of the Kingdom of God?
- In what way is one pearl like the Kingdom of God (v.46)?
- Why did the man in verse 44 sell all he has to buy the field?
- Why does Jesus use a treasure that is hidden as a metaphor for His Kingdom?

MAKING IT REAL

- In what ways do you currently represent God to people? Are there new ways that you could try this week?
- How does the way you live your life show that you value the Kingdom of God?
- Brainstorm ways that you might be able to unleash the power of the Kingdom of God through this group.

"We cannot make the Kingdom of God happen, but we can put out leaves as it draws near. We can be kind to each other. We can be kind to ourselves. We can drive back the darkness a little. We can make green places within ourselves and among ourselves where God can make his Kingdom happen."

Frederick Buechner

PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, we know that Your Kingdom is far greater than any kingdom we have created here on earth. Give us fresh eyes to see ways that we can utilize the power that You have placed inside us. May we share Your Kingdom with those around us this week, that they may see You shining in us. In Jesus' name, amen.

