



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 19 Jan 2025



Kingdom Come! Matthew 4:12-25

Warm Up

Has anyone been part of a tourist group and had to follow a guide? How easy was it? Has anyone had to follow written instructions from someone about how to find a place? Was it easy?
What challenges would a person face, if they moved to live in a totally different country?

Background and context

This passage marks the start of Jesus' public ministry. It follows on from the temptations and comes before the first major block of teaching Jesus gives, The Sermon on the Mount. This passage gives us a sneak preview of life in the Kingdom of God under Jesus' rule. Matthew makes sure we understand Jesus fulfilled a messianic prophecy (Isaiah 9:1-2) and then reveals life under His rule.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 4:12-25 What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. How does Matthew ensure his readers understand that Jesus is the Messiah?
2. How does Jesus fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah 9?
3. Jesus calls people to repent at least 19 times, and 7 times He calls the church to repent in Revelation. It is clearly vital! What does it mean to you? How would you describe it?
4. Jesus also spoke a great deal about the Kingdom of Heaven/ God. Is it here now or is it to come? What actually is it?
5. **Read v18-22.** What is surprising about this passage? Do you think it was the first time He had spoken to these men? Does this still happen today? (Jesus calling people directly.)
6. What do you think it meant for those men to follow Jesus? How does that apply to us?
7. **Read v 23-25.** What is Jesus' threefold ministry in v23?
8. Why has Matthew included this passage (v23-25)? Think, impact of the Kingdom.

Discipleship and Application



9. If it is safe to do so in your group, share how repentance has changed your life.
10. How is life as a citizen of the Kingdom, under the rule of Christ, different from a life as a citizen of earth under the rule of Satan?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.