



Small Group Sermon Guide

Sermon Title: Principles of the Kingdom: Seek First the Kingdom

Speaker: Pastor Keith Golightly

Date: Dec 3, 2025

The Plan

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Small Group discipleship is the most effective and fruitful way to not only further the Kingdom of God in your city, but to help one another to grow and mature in Christ as we follow Him in every aspect of godliness. It's also the best way to form meaningful and lasting friendships, experiencing the true depth and significance of God's family. Discipleship is six fold; it is...

the vision to fulfill | the people to win | the fellowship to cherish
the ministry to give | the discipline to keep | the power to become

The Place

Great small groups practice great hospitality. Whether you meet at someone's apartment, house, or a coffee shop, the gathering place should be welcoming, clean, distraction free, and safe for everyone to share. Always have a seat or space for everyone coming. The key is to keep things simple and natural, giving young adults a reason to come back and invite others.

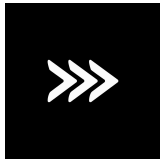
The People

Start the gathering by connecting and catching up, not rushing to the content. This helps people get comfortable and ready to share. Upon sitting and praying, start by going through the **Sermon Summary** and take turns discussing what everyone gleaned from in Wednesday night's message. Together, work your way through the **Scriptures** and **Questions**, keeping the conversation encouraging, challenging, meaningful, and Spirit led. This helps provoke thought in the mind and wonder in the heart. Bring a journal to write what the Lord is saying in the conversations and maybe any questions and prayer requests that come up. End the gathering by walking through the **Creating Rhythms** section and pray together! *The end goal here is to enrich the fellowship and help one another to follow Jesus closer.*

Sermon Summary

What are you seeking in life? What holds prime significance in your heart? There are many powerful Kingdom principles we must learn and live out, but none of them can transform us if we do not "seek first the Kingdom of God." To seek His Kingdom first means giving it ultimate priority—allowing it to shape our desires, our thoughts, and the direction of our lives. It becomes the reality we hunger for most and the atmosphere in which we long to live. When the Kingdom becomes our first pursuit, everything else in life finds its proper place. God orders what we cannot, aligns what we struggle to hold together, and fills our lives with purpose that earthly pursuits can never offer. In the end, seeking His Kingdom first is not just a command—it is the doorway to the Life we were created for in Jesus.

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Scriptures

Below are supporting scriptures that tie into the sermon. Visit these together as you discuss in your Small Group gatherings.

- Matt 6:33 - main scripture
- Matt 5-7 - Sermon on the Mount
- 1 Cor. 10:31 - do all for God's glory
- Gal 5:22-23 - The Fruit of the Spirit
- Jer 29:13 - seek and find God
- Matt 7:7-8 - ask, seek, knock
- Luke 12:31 - seek God's Kingdom
- Psalm 105:4 - seek God's presence
- Matt 13:44 - Hidden treasure in a field
- Matt 13:45-46 - a pearl of great value

Questions

Ask one another the following questions to provoke thought and stir discussion. This helps to expand our thought lives, as well as to encourage and learn from one another.

- What have I been truly seeking lately?
- How does that compare to the supreme value of the Kingdom of God?
- How can I practically "seek first" God's Kingdom within my life's priorities?
- How can I disciple others in helping them to seek God's Kingdom for their lives?

Creating Rhythms

*Below are fundamental, yet essential steps you can take to **be** more like Christ and **do** His word.
Rhythms create disciplines → Disciplines create convictions → Convictions create righteousness.*

- In prayer, ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything you have placed as more significant than the Kingdom of God. If yes, then repent of those things, and God will give you mercy!
- For the next seven days, daily put into practice ways you can practically prioritize seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness. Find ways to get your mind on God, pray for others, and look for ways to be very intentional with people and in your conversations with them.

Notes
