

Understanding God's Kingdom

Course Syllabus
Fall 26, Winter 27, Spring 27
Abundant Life Institute (ALI)



Course title:	Understanding God's Kingdom: parts 1-3
Instructor:	Rev. Dr. Gail Randolph-Williams
Instructor Credential:	Doctor of Ministry (DMin) and Master of Divinity (MDiv): Marriage and Family Therapy
Instructor Contact:	gail.randolph-williams@abundantlife.org
Meeting times	Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Course Description:	This course seeks to examine the central theme of all of Jesus' teachings, the kingdom of God/Heaven. Since, Jesus never gave one all-encompassing definition of the Kingdom, because it is too complex, vast and intricate, this course will focus primarily on one aspect of the Kingdom – the system of management by which God governs and controls everything He has made. In so doing, we are attempting to better understand and implement God's process, or His ways, in daily living, thereby interacting favorably with the systems of the kingdom of God.
Required Text:	Fenton, Abraham, E. Understanding God's Kingdom. Edgewater Park: Abundant Life Publishers, 2009
Recommended Texts:	- Jones, E. Stanley. The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person. Bellingham: McNett, 1972 - Arias, Mortimer. Announcing the Reign of God. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1984 - Kraybill, Donald B. The Upside-Down Kingdom. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2003
Course learning outcomes: (at the end of the course what will a student know, understand, be equipped to do, and/or appreciate that they did not prior to taking this course)	Learning is a change in behavior and attitude that has demonstrated results! The student will be able to: 1. To distinguish between the contemporaneous and eschatological aspects of the kingdom of God. 2. Attain basic understanding of God's system of management. 3. Identify the operational nature and boundaries of God's system of management. 4. Contrast the consequences and benefits of interacting with God's system of management 5. Understand, embrace, and interpret God's purpose for humanity within the framework and through the lens of God's system of management. 6. Identify specific changes in theological thinking and personal practice.
Evaluation criteria:	Students who attend 5 or 6 of the class meetings will receive a Certificate of Completion.

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Fall 2026: Part 1 of 4

Tuesday	10/13	Orientation: All students attend
Tuesday	10/20	MODULE 1.1 – The Importance of the Subject
Tuesday	10/27	MODULE 1.2 – The Importance of the Subject
Tuesday	11/3	No Class – Prayer night
Tuesday	11/10	No Class – Fall Revival
Tuesday	11/17	MODULE 1.3 – The Importance of the Subject
Tuesday	11/24	MODULE 1.4 - The Prerequisites of the Kingdom
Tuesday	12/1	Module 1.5 - The Prerequisites of the Kingdom

Winter 2027: Part 2 of 4

Tuesday	1/26	MODULE 2.1 The Kingdom Defined
Tuesday	2/2	No Class – Prayer night
Tuesday	2/9	MODULE 2.2 – The Parable of the Sower
Tuesday	2/16	MODULE 2.3 The Parable of the Sower
Tuesday	2/23	MODULE 2.4 - The Parable of the Wheat and Tares
Tuesday	3/2	No Class – Prayer night
Tuesday	3/9	MODULE 2.5 – The Parables of the Mustard Seed and The Leaven
Tuesday	3/16	MODULE 2.6 – The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price

Spring 2027: Part 3 of 4

Tuesday	4/20	MODULE 3.1 The Parables of the Dragnet and the Householder
Tuesday	4/27	MODULE 3.2 - The Parable of the Laborers
Tuesday	5/4	No Class – Prayer night
Tuesday	5/11	MODULE 3.3- The Parables of the Two Sons and the Landowner
Tuesday	5/18	MODULE 3.4 - The Parables of the Marriage Feast and the Ten Virgins
Tuesday	5/25	MODULE 3.5 - The Parables of the Talents and the Minas
Tuesday	6/1	No Class – Prayer night
Tuesday	6/8	MODULE 3.6 – The Parable of the Growing Seed