



## Build God's Kingdom

**Focus** God has called us to be involved in expanding His kingdom. We all have a part to play in building God's kingdom in our church and community. The kingdom of God grows inside us so we can make an impact on people around us.

**Fun** What was the first record, cassette tape, or CD you owned?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Matthew 4:17, 6:9–10, 10:7; Mark 1:14–15, 12:30–34; Luke 17:20–21

**1. Build the kingdom of God with prayer.**

When God's people consistently pray, He moves on earth to expand His kingdom. God's kingdom grows inside us through prayer and when we love others.

**2. Build the kingdom of God with giving.**

We can give from our hearts with our time, finances, and resources to help the community and body of believers.

**3. Build the kingdom of God with serving.**

Jesus said that loving your neighbor as yourself is as important as loving God. By caring for those around us, the kingdom of God increases.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Look for areas in the church or community where your group can grow God's kingdom. Ask your members about skills and talents they can share. Pray for God's direction on how to give love toward others.

### Discuss

1. Jesus says in Matthew 4:17 that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." How does this refer to our world and to people in our lives?

2. Repent means to change your mind. When a person repents from attachments and bondage, how does it affect building God's kingdom?
3. Read Luke 17:20–21. What does Jesus mean when He says “the kingdom of God is within you”? How does your focus change as a result?
4. Read what Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:9–10. Why is prayer vital for God to start expanding His kingdom through us? Explain what it means to “pierce the veil” between heaven and earth to expand the kingdom of heaven.
5. Read the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17–22. How does giving reflect God's kingdom within you? Why is loving your neighbor as yourself as important as loving the Lord with all your heart?
6. How does the kingdom of God grow when you reach out to family or your community to show them you care and that you're willing to help them?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- When Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected for us, earth and heaven came closer together.
- The kingdom of God is within us, here and now.
- Loving others is as important as loving God.
- We build God's kingdom on earth when we pray, give, and serve people.

**Prayer** Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts so we expand Your kingdom. We let go of anything that might hold us back. Father, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Help us to step out and lovingly serve anyone You are calling into Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Invite your section leader to meet you for coffee or lunch. Think of questions beforehand or ideas to share and gain insight. Cultivate a deeper friendship so that you may gain more wisdom and support.