



Sermon Discussion Guide

Upside Down Kingdom: Get Used to Different

Week 1: Upside Down

Philippians 3:20 | June 28, 2020

Big Idea

The Kingdom of God that Jesus taught and modeled is upside down from the experience we have largely had in our world. We begin this series by starting to understand this Kingdom and how to flow with it.

Opening Questions

1. Has there been a sermon or series in the recent past at Watermark Wesleyan that has resonated most with you? Why?

General Sermon Thoughts/Questions

1. When you hear the term “Kingdom of God” what does that mean to you and why?
2. From the sermon what were some thoughts shared on ‘what’ the Kingdom of God is and ‘where’ it is/can be? How did that make you feel about the Kingdom of God? And did it help you understand it? If so, how?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **Matthew 5:1-12**. Here we see a lot of upside-down (from the world’s perspective) teaching from Jesus. Recap them as a group. Which one stands out to you the most and why?
2. The sermon hit on several other upside-down statements by Jesus as he taught about the Kingdom of God. Do any others come to mind? How do they make you feel?
3. Explain in your own words the drawing the pastor walked through and what that demonstrated. Read **Philippians 3:20**. What was the pastor’s main point about this verse that helps us to turn our perspective? Are there any situations in your life where this perspective might be useful?
4. Have you been guilty of seeing life through too much of the lens of either: 1) that most of the good in life is behind you or 2) that you missed out on/were dealt a bad hand in regard to past opportunities or seasons in life? Has holding onto that helped or hindered you? What would be a healthy thing to do if you are stuck in such a trap/cycle?
5. In the recent past are there any ways in which you are tempted to react according to the flesh? What feelings are you having in regard to that and why? What may be an “upside-down” manner in which Jesus could be calling you to respond/react instead?

6. In your day-to-day life (i.e. “the daily grind”) what situations arise where you are tempted to respond according to the flesh? Read **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**. What instruction/encouragement do you see from these verses that could help you deal with such situations?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon &/or our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to now do?
3. Beyond prayer for each other is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

“Dear Heavenly Father we understand that Your ways are not our ways and that this world in which we reside does not often resemble Your desire for what the Kingdom of God on earth should look like. Help us to embrace that we are to be a part of the solution; not adding to the problem. That really starts with our perspective on You and life. Renew us in our perspective and thinking in order to better align with Your upside-down Kingdom! Amen.”