



You Can't Let Jesus In and Keep Him Out

Week of September 4, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 13:33-35

In the kingdom of earth we're bored by the wonder of life and blind to the presence of God. We invite Jesus into our lives and then restrict where we allow him access. We compartmentalize our lives and keep him out of the things we don't want to change. But you can't let Jesus in and keep him out. We are challenged to *Live Kingdom* without limits. Just as a little yeast affects the whole dough, making it rise and react, we must let Jesus affect our whole lives. We must let him raise us up to a God-sized life. What do you let Jesus do in your house? Do you keep him out of select rooms, restricting him to certain areas that you know are "cleaned up?" Or do you let him into your dirty, messy closets and back rooms where he can take charge and help you really live the Kingdom? If your faith in Jesus is real, it will take over everything, and you will live a God-sized life that points others to Christ.

Pray

Jesus, I confess that I've been having you live in my life as a guest. I've been keeping you in the places that are clean and presentable instead of letting you completely in—even to the places that are messy and dirty. Today, I invite you into my life as the owner. I give you total control over every aspect of my life. I want to let your Kingdom come in my life and live the God-sized life you have for me.

Getting Started

- Have you ever made dough using yeast? Explain the process of the amount of yeast you use and its affect on the rest of the ingredients.
- Discuss why Jesus tells parables when he talks about the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Listening Deeply

1. What are some of the differences between the Kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of earth?
2. What are some of the ways we let Jesus in but keep him out?
3. Is Jesus your guest, or an owner of your house? What parts of your life are off limits to God?
4. Read Colossians 2:6. How could applying these principles change the way you live with Jesus?
5. When we let the Kingdom come in our lives, Jesus can lead us to a God-sized life. What does "Kingdom Come" look like in your day-to-day life?
6. Read Ephesians 4:11. What do you need to change in your life to *attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*?
7. In the Old Testament yeast was an analogy of sin, but here Jesus says the Kingdom of heaven is like yeast. Why would Jesus use this kind of analogy?

Living Wide in Jesus

Allowing Jesus into your life means allowing him into your *whole* life. In every room, every compartment, every corner, every closet. If you don't allow Jesus access to everything, he won't be in anything. Living in the Kingdom of heaven means we're waking to the wonder of his Presence and driven by curiosity to seek eternity in time. Today, you can live in the presence of God. You can live Kingdom. Give up control. Give up the fear that is keeping you smaller than God's will for your life. Imagine what God might be able to do if you let him completely own you.