



KINGDOMCOME

parables of the kingdom

This week's lesson will give us a chance to respond to Evelyn Lo's sermon from this past Sunday on the importance of cultivating our own oil (Matthew 25:1-13) by developing a daily facetime while looking ahead to Pastor John's sermon for next Sunday on the parable of the field and the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:44-46). To do this, we'll be having a facetime together!

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

FACETIME

In doing a facetime together, we hope everyone will see that this is something they can do on their own. We'll be modeling a 30-minute facetime together, which comes out to about 10 minutes each for worship, Bible reading, and prayer. For some 30 minutes may be too short, while for others it might be too long. Regardless of where folks are at, encourage them to develop a daily facetime and to see that even a little time with Jesus daily will lead to deeper intimacy in the long run!

WORSHIP

In order to give folks a model they can reproduce on their own, let's do iPod worship. Choose 2-3 songs and worship for about 10 minutes. If it might help, you can have people turn towards the walls with their backs facing each other so that they can more freely engage with God.

BIBLE

We'll be studying the Parable of the Field and the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:44-46), which Pastor John will be preaching on next Sunday. Have people pull out their Bibles/Bible apps so that they can meditate on the passage on their own.

Matthew 13:44-46 – The Parable of the Field and the Pearl of Great Price

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

The following is a simple guide to help people engage with scripture on their own. Have people write down the answers to each of these prompts in their journal/on a piece of paper:

- 1) What is one thing that stands out to you from this passage?
- 2) Why does this stand out to you?
- 3) What does this mean for you? / What might God be trying to tell you through this passage?
- 4) Is there a way for you to respond to this passage?
- 5) How can you pray off of this passage and off of what God is speaking to you?

How you lead this time is up to you. You could give everyone the prompts up front or you could give people an example either by sharing yourself or leading someone else through this process. Be sure to emphasize having people meditate on what the text means for them personally, if there is a way they can respond, and praying off of the passage.

PRAYER

With Easter coming up on March 27, let's begin to pray for our family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Have folks write down three such people they want to pray for tonight. Off of this week's passage, let's pray specifically that these individuals would encounter God in such a powerful way that they would be compelled to sell everything to follow him!

SMALL GROUP

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share how God spoke to each person through this passage, if there is any way they want to respond to it, and what their prayer off it was. Then close by praying for each other off of these things.

Make sure to encourage people to put this facetime model into practice! If 30-minutes is too long, they can start with what they can do. The important thing is that they begin cultivating this kind of a relationship with Jesus. You can have people in their small groups check up on each other throughout the week to share how God is speaking to each other and to pray together off of that.