

## The Lord's Prayer Session 2:

**“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”**

*When someone says ‘kingdom’, what do you immediately think of? What would make a good king? What would make a bad one?*

### 1. God as king.

If there is a kingdom, there must be a king.

Read **Isaiah 43:15**, **1 Chronicles 29:11**, **Psalms 45:6** and **Psalms 89:14**.

- What do these verses tell us about the kind of king God is?
- What is the extent of his kingship?

Read **Psalm 72**: the ideal king

- What is he supposed to do (vv2, 4, 12-13)?
- Who will benefit in particular?
- What will be the benefits for everyone (vv 6-7,16)

*It never happened – the earthly kings and the people turned away from God. God's will was not being done on earth, yet God still reigned.*

### 2. Jesus and the kingdom

At the beginning of his ministry Jesus announced that the kingdom of God had “come near”. Read **Mark 1:14–15**.

- What did people therefore need to do? Why, do you think?
- Why should it be good news for people?

**Luke 4:16-21** quotes Isaiah as the manifesto of the kingdom. [For reference, also see Luke 7:18–23]

- From these verses, what is the kingdom like?
- What are the signs of its presence?

*But Jesus didn't say that the kingdom of God had fully arrived, only that it was “at hand”. Looking at our world, it can be hard to see signs of God's kingdom in it.*

Read **Matthew 13:31–33**, and **Matthew 13:24–30** and **36–42**

- So, what do these parables tell us about the nature of God's kingdom on earth?
- How do they help us understand the way the kingdom works now?
- How could remembering this help us when we pray “your kingdom come”?

### 3. Living in the kingdom – doing God’s will

*Jesus told many parables about the kingdom and the importance of being in the kingdom (for reference look at Matthew 21:28–45, 22:1–15 and ch. 25).*

Read **Matthew 24:45–51**. The master in this story is Jesus, who is now in heaven but will return to bring in the kingdom.

- What do you think Jesus has entrusted us with? How can we be faithful servants in his absence?
- What relevance do you think this has to our day-to-day living (for example how we spend our time or our money)?

*Outside the Gospels we don’t find much mention of the ‘kingdom’ (possibly because it could have been seen as a political term). Paul says to the Philippians that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20) and he uses the word ‘kingdom’ in the following passage.*

Read **Colossians 1:13–14**

- What kingdoms are described here?
- Who rules each?
- Taking this passage with Jesus’ parable of the weeds, would you say that is there a middle way between the kingdoms? If not, what does this tell us about the ultimate results of being either in or out of God’s kingdom?
- How have Christ’s followers switched kingdoms?

*The NT letters have a lot to say about how those who have accepted Jesus as Lord should live (examples for reference: Galatians 5:13–26; Ephesians 4:17 – 5:20; Colossians 3:1–14).*

Read **Romans 12:9–21**. There are a lot of instructions here but in general:

- What’s the relationship between being in the kingdom and doing good works?
- Is there any one instruction that strikes you particularly? Why?

Read **Revelation 11:15**.

- What reassurance does this give us?
- How can remembering this fact help us when we pray “your kingdom come, your will be done”?

*To think about*

- How should our relationships be affected by this section of the prayer?
- What about our everyday choices, our spending, our time, our votes??