

## NMBC Small group notes - week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Your Kingdom come!

Ideas for study & discussion. Select which questions you feel most helpful to discuss.

**A starter**, or even to keep till the end!

What are **benefits & dangers of patriotism** towards the country - "kingdom" - you live in?

- 1 On Sunday we looked back at the guidance for kings among God's OT people.  
**What priorities in character & behaviour did God expect of a human king?**  
Deuteronomy 17:14-17
- 2 We also looked back at the principles of life, relationships & society God expected.  
**What priorities in character & behaviour did God expect of his people in the OT?**  
The Lord expected the healing of society's ills Psalm 146:7-9  
The Lord expected dishonest trading to be outlawed Micah 6:9-12  
The Lord expected the weak to be cared for Isaiah 42:1-4  
The Lord expected riches & property to be shared out Deuteronomy 15:1-11  
**Suggest some others too; prophets like Amos had plenty to add!**
- 3 **"My kingdom is not of this world"** John 18:36  
**"The kingdom of God is within you [or among you]"** Luke 17:21  
Discuss the meaning of the words Jesus uses like **"this world"** & **"within"** & work out your explanation of how we are to think of the **"kingdom of God"**.
- 4 What are the differences between the **"Kingdom"** life of Christians on Earth,  
& **"God's Kingdom"** in its completeness when Jesus returns?  
1 Corinthians 15:24-28
- 5 Our **individual** lives are made up of loyalties & dynamics in different directions: family, work, use of money, use of leisure, paying taxes, service in the church family, service in the community, public morality issues, what grabs us in the media, & many others.  
**As individuals** praying **"Your Kingdom come!"** can we share frankly the particular areas of our personal lives where we feel it a challenge to live the **"kingdom life"**?
- 6 What are ways in which **our church** seeks to live out the life of God's kingdom?  
Would you like to put together a 'vision list' of what we should be aiming for?
- 7 **Final activity idea to focus on Jesus, our King**  
Silently 'speed read' Mark 15:1-32, just counting how many times Jesus is called **"King"**.  
Then, when you agree how many, ask: **"How many of these statements were sincere?"**  
**Share your thoughts worshipfully** about the strange way that Jesus revealed himself as our King as we encourage each other to pray with fresh purpose: **"Your kingdom come!"**

### Prayer

Pray over your 'vision list' from No 5 above.

Give thanks for the first year of **Malden Manor Community Church**, & pray for the next!

Pray for **students starting university courses**: Jonathan Keeya, Nina Waller, and Dan Trend.

Pray for **Emily Fuller & the Action Teams** training in Birmingham.

Pray for the crisis in our **national leadership** & in the **growth of division** across the country.

Pray for the **Kelle Bryan evening** on Saturday and for the giving of invitations to friends.

Pray for rising interest and commitments to the **Alpha Course** starting on Mon 1<sup>st</sup> October.

For a final prayer of worship & wonder, you could read the vision of **Daniel 7:13-14**.