



Small Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

A Different Kind of King
(with a Different Kind of Kingdom)
Pastor Shawn Thornton
(Discussion Guide by Mack Braden)
May 23-24, 2020

Character is the combination of qualities, features, and traits that form our nature and define who we are. Character is far more important than reputation. Your reputation is only what people think of you, while character is who you are when no one is watching, the real you. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us the values of His Kingdom and what it looks like to be the kind of person God is calling us to be.

This weekend, Pastor Shawn kicked off the summer message series on the most famous of Jesus' teachings, the Sermon on the Mount. There are three thematic sections to Jesus' teaching: righteous living, righteous thinking, and hard choices. Throughout His messages, Jesus shifts people's thinking from law to grace, from religion to relationship, from the external to the internal, from compliance to transformation. These principles are just as radical and profound today as they were when Jesus spoke them 2000+ years ago.

Jesus ushered in a new kingdom. The values of God's kingdom are completely different than the values of the earthly kingdom. For example, as Pastor Shawn pointed out this weekend, "When you live according to Christ's kingdom, you help other people when they can't help you back." We want to be people who have a different kind of character and live a different kind of life because we have a different kind of King, with a different kind of kingdom.

Opening Question: When was the last time you helped someone who couldn't help you back? What did you do?

READ ALOUD Matthew 4:23-5:2

Kings and Kingdoms Usually Try To:

- I. Obtain Unstoppable Power –**
But Jesus:
Humbles Himself
Empowers Others

Matthew 20:25-28 "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with

you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

1. **How did Jesus demonstrate humility and empower others? Share examples from the Gospels.**
2. **How has Jesus empowered you? Share an example of something Jesus helped you do or change in your character.**

II. Amass Unimaginable Wealth

But Jesus:

Sacrifices Himself
Graces Others.

Philippians 2:6-8 “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by being obedient to death – even death on a cross.”

3. **What are some things Jesus gave to those to whom He ministered?**
4. **What can you give to those God has put in your path?**

III. Pursue Undeniable Pleasure

But Jesus:

Denies Himself
Serves Others

Matthew 16:24 “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me .”

“We make a living by what we get and we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

5. **Read John 13:4-5, 12-15: How does Jesus’s model in that passage demonstrate His Kingdom value of serving others?**
6. **What are some ways we can serve others in this time as our country starts to open up and transition into a “new normal?”**
7. **Give an example to what denying yourself might look like in your life this week.**