



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Kingdom of God - Hannah Dreblow

March 14, 2021

/Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Tip of the week

Question writers: if you would like to use this space to share a creative idea about an activity small groups could do together, or a way to make their conversation engaging, add it here. If you don't have one, feel free to delete this section.



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.

- 1. Along with our series, have you noticed paradoxes in your faith, in the world, more readily? How have you responded to them in the last week or weeks? Ambivalence? Boxing them up and removing the hard parts? Stepping into the tension? What did this look like for you?
- 2. What are some examples that you have seen over the last year of God's kingdom coming?
- 3. Spend a moment thinking and praising the Lord for his invitation into Kingdom building. He has said both that, He "is the light of the world" and then that "We are the light of the world." What an incredible truth to be part of this kingdom building endeavor.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
 - **Mark 1:14-15**
 - **Luke 4:18-21**
 - **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

- 4. Read Luke 4:18-21. Talk about how each group who may have been present would have responded to these words? How would Jesus' words about the Kingdom have affected different people?



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5. Take a few minutes to read Matt. 13, pick a parable to discuss the reality of the now and the not yet.

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
6. What are other ways to describe "Here but not yet"? Are there ways that we as the church can understand this and share this with the world around us?
 7. Are we as individuals, we as the church, we as American people living into the "here but not yet"? What about the quote Hannah shared from C.S. Lewis, Mr. Beaver describing Aslan as "not safe, but good"? How do both of these thoughts ("here but not yet" *and* "not safe but good") connect and encourage us to move ahead?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
8. When faced with nuance and paradox in Christianity are you more tempted to err on the side of ambivalence or on the side of neatly managed tidy boxes? What helps you stay in the middle and wrestle with the complexity of living in the now and the not yet?
 9. God has "tagged" us all to love our neighbors, are there ways or issues do you feel specifically drawn to participate in bringing His kingdom?



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10. Hannah talked about the two things that help us live in the now and (kai) not yet. One was Hope, the other was the reality that living a kingdom life is not safe, but it is good.
- a. How does Hope both ground you and propel you?
 - b. Share an example of when you participated in simple obedience, yet it required great courage.

Time of Prayer