

**How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?**



# What is the Gospel? The Kingdom

Danny Hall • October 14, 2012  
Luke 4:14-30

**Your Kingdom Come**

**Your Will Be Done**

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If you would like to become a part of a small group please contact  
the church office at 925-846-6622 or [info@vcclive.org](mailto:info@vcclive.org).



# What is the Gospel? The Kingdom

Luke 4:14-30

Message-based Group Lesson

## Overview

At the heart of Jesus' teaching was his announcement that the Kingdom of God was near. This was the content of his "preaching the good news." But what does this mean? How is this good news? Last week we focused on Jesus as King. This week we will look at the crucial topic of the Kingdom of God.

In the words of Dallas Willard, the Kingdom of God is the effective rule of God, or wherever God is able to enact his will. For instance, in what we call the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his disciples to pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This kingdom then exists in the midst of all the fallen kingdoms of this world as a powerful testimony to and agent of God's amazing transforming grace.

In an important message early in his ministry, Jesus spoke at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. In this message he explained that the promises of the prophet Isaiah were being fulfilled in their presence. These promises described key elements of the kingdom, outlining some of the agenda of God's rule. This kingdom would be one of healing, forgiveness, release from bondage, and grace. As we trust in Jesus as Lord and King we become part of this kingdom, entering into a life characterized by becoming more and more like our king. While we wait for the full and complete realization of the kingdom, we live out its values and point toward this completion.

## Engaging with each other

1. If you've travelled abroad as an American citizen, did you have any experiences that heightened the differences in culture between America and that other country?
2. If you've moved from one part of the U.S. to another region of the U.S. (or just travelled to another part of the country), did you have any experiences that heightened the difference in culture between those two regions?

## Engaging with the Bible

1. In the Lord's Prayer, after praying "Your kingdom come," the next phrase is "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10) Why do you think Jesus instructs us to pray that God's will be done? What do you think it would look like for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?

2. In what way was God's Kingdom "near" when Jesus proclaimed that? (Mark 1:15) In what way is it "good news" that the Kingdom is near?
3. Read Luke 4:16-21. Why do you think Jesus chose that particular passage from Isaiah for his first public preaching of good news? When Jesus adds the "kicker" in verse 21, what is he saying about himself? What is he saying about the people in the synagogue that day?
4. In the overview we state that "this kingdom would be one of healing, forgiveness, release from bondage, and grace." How do these elements expand your understanding of God's kingdom?
5. Read Colossians 1:13-14. What are the two dominions/kingdoms mentioned? If these are the only two options, what does that imply?

## Engaging with our lives

1. In what ways do you attempt to straddle these two kingdoms and what is the harm in doing so?
2. If you truly lived your life as a citizen of God's kingdom, what would be different?