

Year of Biblical Literacy Small Group Resource

January 5th Sermon - The Kingdom of Heaven is Here - Robbie

Purpose:

Together, the group will explore how Matthew and Jesus invite us to consider that the Kingdom of Heaven is here now!

Opening Prayer and Welcome (5 mins)

1. Open with prayer, inviting God to guide your hearts as you reflect on the Gospel of Matthew and the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. Welcome group members and spend a few moments sharing how the holidays went for you.

Scripture Exploration (30 mins)

Invite group members to take turns reading Matthew 13:1-52. Take some time to identify the 8 parables in the passage.

1. Take some moments to discuss one or two of the parables in Matthew 13. Take a moment to reflect and meditate on it first.
 - a. What stands out in the parable?
 - b. What questions emerge?
 - c. What connections do you notice and recognize from the Old Testament?
 - d. What connections do you notice from other teachings of Jesus?
 - e. What Structures, parallels, and repetitions are significant in the parable?
2. What deeper levels of understanding is Jesus inviting you to further investigate and meditate on the parable? Robbie told us that if we think we understand the parable we have more work to do to discover the next layer of meaning that Jesus might have for us. What is that for you in Matthew 13?
3. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus. Robbie didn't feel like he had authority to teach about the specific parables on Sunday. What are your views about authority and scripture and what postures have you held about scripture as you engage and read it?

Prayer

Matthew 13 is central to understanding the message in the Gospel of Matthew. Pray for the Spirit to open your eyes and ears and heart to have the Kingdom of Heaven revealed to you as you continue to study and meditate on Matthew.