



NEW TESTAMENT 3

Adult Bible Study

Jesus Teaches about God's Kingdom

REPRODUCIBLE STUDY PAGES



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is full of trouble—for we are like lambs in the midst of wolves—He will be with us and will one day take us to Himself in heaven, where fear and need can reach us no more.

Say 4. In Luke 10:9, Jesus tells the seventy-two to heal the sick and proclaim, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” Based on what Jesus says in Luke 7:18–23, why might He have had the seventy-two perform miraculous signs along with preaching? Why do we no longer need miraculous signs to accompany Christian preaching today?

John the Baptist wanted confirmation that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 29:18 and 35:5–6 prophesied that in the day when the Messiah would come, the deaf would hear and the blind would see. In other words, great signs and wonders would accompany the arrival of the Messiah. Jesus pointed to the signs He had done as confirmation for John that He was the long-expected one.

In a similar fashion, the healings of the sick that the seventy-two performed as Jesus’ sent ones indicated that the kingdom of God had come with the arrival of Jesus. Their signs would corroborate that fact and give credibility to their preaching. We no longer need signs, because Jesus has given the ultimate sign. He has risen from the dead. The historical resurrection of Christ provides all the authentication that any proclamation of the Gospel needs.

Say 5. According to 2 Peter 3:9, does God desire that any people be condemned? According to 1 Timothy 2:3–6, for whom did Christ die? Whom does God desire to be saved? When we struggle to understand all of these things, what does Romans 11:33–36 teach us?

It seems a paradoxical and an unsolvable problem to try to determine why some are saved and others are not. We just have to confess the truths of Holy Scripture. We know that the only way to the Father is through the Son (Luke 10:22), so outside of Him there is no salvation. We know that the Lord lets Himself be rejected, for we are told that “whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). We know that the Lord does not wish “that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Christ Jesus “gave Himself as a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:6), not just some, and God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

All of these statements are true because they are God’s Word, but we cannot logically harmonize what they say. Therefore, we must simply confess what God gives us to believe and thank the Lord that He has chosen us to be His children. We confess, along with Paul, that we cannot know the mind of God nor search His judgments nor scrutinize His ways but that all glory forever belongs to Him. Amen!

3 Share (10 minutes)

Say 6. God’s Word helps us understand how we are to live within our various vocations. Discuss the various vocations of Christians described in 1 Peter 2:9–17 and 3:14–16. What kind of evangelism is

every Christian called to do? According to 1 Peter 4:10, do all people have the same gifts and vocations? Why or why not?

In 1 Peter 2:9–17, the first vocation highlighted is our relationship with the Lord, who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light through the Gospel. We are a royal priesthood, and what do priests do? They make sacrifices. “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1). We also have the vocation to live honorable lives before unbelievers (1 Peter 2:12) so that they might be attracted to the faith.

We have the vocation to proclaim the excellencies of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us (1 Peter 2:9) and of “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). In other words, when the opportunity arises, we should share the Gospel with those around us. We also have the vocation to obey the government (1 Peter 2:17). We could talk about other vocations as well, but we should recognize that not everyone has the same gifts and vocations, but “as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10). Though we do not all have the same gifts and vocations, we should use whatever we have for the good of our neighbors.

4 Send (5 minutes)

Share the text of next week’s lesson with participants, and encourage them to read and reflect on it prior to coming to class next week.

For the **Family Connections** section, encourage the adults with children in Sunday School to review their child’s leaflet together at home. Also, encourage the class to talk about the various callings Christians have and to use the explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed and the Table of Duties in their family devotions.

For the **Personal Reflection** section, remind everyone to pray that the Lord would bless the Church with workers, as Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2). Close the class by reciting the Lord’s Prayer together.