



# LIFEGROUP GUIDE KINGDOM COME



ETERNITY WITH GOD BEGINS NOW AND IMPACTS THE WAY WE  
LIVE, LOVE, AND SERVE.

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# INTRODUCTION

## A guide for LifeGroup Leaders

As a LifeGroup leader, you are entrusted with guiding students on a journey where they will belong, behold, and become—partnering with the Holy Spirit who transforms our hearts and minds through the study of God’s Word and community. This semester, we’ll be diving into a powerful theme that will shape and challenge our hearts: Kingdom Come.

Our journey together will focus on living with a kingdom mindset—aligning our lives with the eternal reality of God’s reign, while navigating the world around us.

The central truth we’ll explore is that eternity with God begins now. The kingdom of heaven is at hand, and we are invited to embrace God’s presence, purpose, and values in our daily lives.

As a LifeGroup leader, this guide will help your small group explore what it means to live with heaven in mind and consider how the hope of God’s future kingdom impacts our choices, relationships, and priorities today. Each week will invite you to live with a deeper sense of purpose, reflecting God’s eternal kingdom in tangible ways.

Throughout the semester, your role is pivotal in creating a space where students feel they truly belong, fostering authentic relationships rooted in Christ. As they behold the truths of God’s Kingdom, they will encounter the beauty of God’s reign here and now, and be equipped to become the kingdom-minded individuals God calls them to be. Let’s work together to shape a spiritually transformative environment where students not only learn but live out the eternal hope of Kingdom Come.

Thank you for being an integral part of this Kingdom journey. Your leadership and care will make a lasting impact in the lives of your group members.

*Anna Bennett*

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN



# GENERAL FORMAT



## Length & Consistency

Each gathering should be designed to build spiritual depth, relational warmth, and missional purpose. A structured yet flexible rhythm allows your group to grow in connection with one another and with God. Meeting consistently, starting and ending on time, and keeping the duration within 60–75 minutes builds trust and encourages long-term engagement.

## Shared Responsibility Builds Stronger Community

You don't have to lead every part of the gathering! In fact, LifeGroups are healthiest when members contribute to the leadership. Delegating small responsibilities empowers others, deepens investment, and models kingdom collaboration.

Consider assigning these roles (rotate weekly if desired):

- Attendance Tracker – Take note of who's present (a great co-leader task).
- Timekeeper – Helps you stay on track so you can begin and end well.
- Hospitality Host – Organizes snacks, welcomes people, sets the tone.
- Icebreaker Facilitator – Leads the weekly opening question or activity.
- Prayer Recorder – Jots down prayer requests and updates the group.
- Discussion Helper – Assists with reading scripture or posing questions.

**Pro Tip:** Introduce these roles during your first gathering and invite group members to sign up based on interest. Don't be afraid to invite quieter members to take on behind-the-scenes roles like prayer or timekeeping.

## Before Group Begins

Take Attendance each week. Consistent tracking helps your ministry team follow up with students who may be struggling or disconnected. Arrive early to pray, set up, and create a welcoming environment. Prepare your scripture passage, discussion questions, and any materials needed for the activity.

## Welcome & Icebreaker (10-15 min)

Build connection and create an inclusive tone by greeting everyone by name and introducing any new guests. Lead the weekly icebreaker from the guide or invite another member to facilitate. Prepare intentional questions ahead of time that relate to the theme and take the discussion deeper.

## Scripture Focus (5–10 min)

Center the group in God's Word by reading the featured scripture passage(s) aloud together. Invite a few group members to read from their translations or paraphrase what stood out. To begin with, ask simple follow-ups like, "What word or phrase jumps out to you?"

## Guided Discussion (25–30 min)

Reflect deeply on the theme and engage real-life application. Use the discussion questions from the curriculum to explore the passage. Let conversations flow naturally, but be ready to redirect if needed. Affirm contributions and create space for quieter voices to share. Remember, you are not expected to have all the answers. Your job is to facilitate honest, Spirit-led dialogue.

## Activity or Reflection (10–15 min)

Choose from the interactive ideas or personal prompts provided each week. Consider journaling, role-play, object lessons, reflection walls, or visual projects. Tailor the activity to your group's size, setting, and personality.

## Service/Challenge Invitation (5 min)

Introduce the week's service idea or challenge, emphasizing how small steps make a big kingdom impact. Invite feedback or brainstorm new ideas together. Check in from previous weeks to build continuity.

## Prayer & Closing (5 min)

Take a few moments to share prayer requests (can be written or spoken). The assigned Prayer Recorder can send requests to the group later in the week. Close with a prayer of gratitude, intercession, and blessing.



# WEEK 1

## LIVING WITH A KINGDOM MINDSET



### Welcome & Icebreaker

- Goal: Build a foundation of trust and community, encouraging participants to share a bit about themselves and form connections.
- Activity: "Human Bingo" – Create bingo cards with different characteristics, hobbies, or experiences (e.g., "Has been to another country," "Likes to cook," "Is an only child"). Students will find others who match these traits, helping them to connect on a personal level.
- Discussion: Share why you decided to join this group and what you're hoping to earn from it this semester.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on your own spiritual journey and what you're hoping God will reveal to you through this study.



### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Icebreaker: "What's one thing that helps you keep your mind focused throughout the day?"
- Scripture: Matthew 6:33 – "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
- Discussion Questions:
  - What does it mean to you to live with a kingdom mindset?
  - How can we practically seek God's kingdom first in our everyday lives?
  - What are some distractions in life that pull us away from focusing on God's kingdom?
  - How does living with a kingdom mindset change your priorities?
  - In what ways can we encourage one another to keep God at the center of our lives?

### Activity or Reflection

Kingdom Treasure Hunt – Hide several items that represent different aspects of God's kingdom (love, mercy, justice, etc.) around the room. As students find them, they share how that item relates to the kingdom of God and how they can reflect it in their lives.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Organize a campus prayer walk, praying for God's kingdom to come in your campus community.
- Personal Prompt: Each day this week, reflect on one way you can align your thoughts and actions with God's eternal kingdom.

### Prayer & Closing

# WEEK 2

## THE KINGDOM IS NOW AND NOT YET



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "If you could experience one aspect of God's kingdom here on earth, what would it be?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Luke 17:20-21 – "The kingdom of God is in the midst of you."
- Discussion Questions:
  - How do you understand the tension between the "now" and the "not yet" of God's kingdom?
  - What does it mean that God's kingdom is present here and now?
  - How can we live out the reality of the kingdom even though its full completion is still to come?
  - How does this tension affect how we respond to the world's challenges?
  - What role do we play in bringing God's kingdom to earth today?

### Activity or Reflection

Kingdom Present or Future? – Have a set of statements or situations where students decide if they represent "the kingdom now" or "the kingdom to come." Afterward, discuss the answers and why they fit in each category.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Serve at a local shelter or food bank, helping to bring God's kingdom of justice and mercy to those in need.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on one area of your life where you can embrace the "now" aspect of God's kingdom.

### Prayer & Closing



## WEEK 3

# LIVING AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be and why?"



### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Philippians 3:20 – "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- Discussion Questions:
  - How does the concept of "citizenship" in heaven change how we view our identity on earth?
  - What does it mean to live as a citizen of heaven in a world that is not our home?
  - How can we represent the values of heaven in our relationships and actions?
  - How does the hope of Christ's return shape our daily lives?
  - In what areas of your life can you be more intentional about reflecting your heavenly citizenship?

### Activity or Reflection

- Prompt students to journal quietly for 5–7 minutes on one of the following:
  - "How would your priorities change if you saw yourself primarily as a citizen of heaven?"
  - "What are the biggest tensions between our culture and kingdom values?"
- Then, invite students to pair up and share one takeaway from their journaling (if comfortable).

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Hold a discussion or event that invites students to share stories of how their cultural backgrounds reflect God's kingdom.
- Personal Prompt: This week, practice living with the awareness that you are a citizen of heaven, asking God to help you live with eternal values.

### Prayer & Closing

## WEEK 4

# KINGDOM VALUES – LOVE & MERCY



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What is the kindest thing someone has ever done for you?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Matthew 5:7 – "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."
- Discussion Questions:
  - What does mercy look like in action, and how is it different from forgiveness?
  - How can we show love and mercy in our everyday interactions?
  - How do God's mercy and love challenge our society's way of dealing with conflict?
  - Who in your life is in need of mercy, and how can you show them that mercy?
  - How can we challenge each other to reflect God's love and mercy in practical ways?

### Activity or Reflection

Mercy Ladder – Have students write down acts of mercy they can show others (ranging from small to large) on slips of paper. Create a "ladder" on the wall where students can stick their papers as they commit to showing mercy this week.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Partner with a local organization working for racial or social justice and volunteer.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on one area where you can show mercy or love to someone this week, especially someone different from you.

### Prayer & Closing





## WEEK 5

# FORGIVENESS IN THE KINGDOM



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What's a lesson you've learned from forgiving someone or being forgiven?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Matthew 18:21-22 – "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"
- Discussion Questions:
  - Why is forgiveness so important in God's kingdom?
  - How does forgiving others reflect God's grace in our lives?
  - What is the hardest part of forgiveness, and how can we overcome it?
  - How does the act of forgiving change our hearts and relationships?
  - Who do you need to forgive, and how can you begin that process?

### Activity or Reflection

Forgiveness Tree – Have a large tree drawn on a poster with leaves that students write down someone they need to forgive (anonymously if necessary). The tree will symbolize the growth that comes from forgiveness.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Host a "Forgiveness Night" where students share how forgiveness has impacted their lives and pray for one another.
- Personal Prompt: Consider someone you need to forgive this week and ask God to help you extend grace to them.

### Prayer & Closing



## WEEK 6

# LIVING OUT THE BEATITUDES



### Welcome & Icebreaker

"Which of the Beatitudes do you think is the hardest to live out?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12 – The Beatitudes
- Discussion Questions:
  - Which Beatitude resonates most with you, and why?
  - How do the Beatitudes challenge the values of our culture?
  - What does it look like to live out the attitudes described in the Beatitudes?
  - How can we embody meekness, mercy, and purity in our relationships and actions?
  - How does God's blessing come through living out these kingdom values?

### Activity or Reflection

Beatitude Charades – Have students act out each Beatitude, and others will guess which one is being portrayed. Afterward, discuss what each Beatitude means in practical terms.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Create care packages for the homeless and include a note of encouragement reflecting the kingdom values of compassion and peace.
- Personal Prompt: Choose one Beatitude to focus on this week, asking God to help you live it out more fully.

### Prayer & Closing



## WEEK 7

# KINGDOM WORK – LIVING ON PURPOSE



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What's something you've always wanted to accomplish or contribute to the world?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Colossians 3:23 – "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."
- Discussion Questions:
  - What does it mean to work as if for the Lord and not for human approval?
  - How does understanding our purpose in God's kingdom change how we approach our work or studies?
  - In what areas of your life can you align your work with God's kingdom?
  - How can we support each other in finding purpose in everyday tasks?
  - What does it mean to "live on purpose" in a world that often feels aimless?

### Activity or Reflection

Purpose Mapping – Have students create a visual map of how their studies, work, and relationships fit into the bigger picture of God's kingdom. Discuss the different purposes students see in their lives.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Organize a service project that ties into the values of God's kingdom—whether through the arts, education, or environmental stewardship.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on your daily tasks and how they can be opportunities to serve God's kingdom, asking God to reveal new ways you can work with purpose.

### Prayer & Closing



## WEEK 8

# KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What's one thing you love about a culture or background different from your own?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Galatians 3:28 – "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Discussion Questions:
  - How does the kingdom of God bring unity despite our differences in culture, race, and gender?
  - What are some ways our differences can reflect the beauty of God's kingdom?
  - How can we celebrate diversity within the body of Christ?
  - How do we navigate cultural differences while pursuing unity in Christ?
  - How can we break down barriers that divide us within the church and in the world?

### Activity or Reflection

Cultural Showcase – Invite students to share something unique about their culture (a tradition, food, or custom) and reflect on how it highlights the beauty of God's kingdom.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Host a multicultural meal or event where students can share food, stories, and experiences from their cultures.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on how you can build more unity in your relationships, embracing the diversity that reflects God's kingdom.

### Prayer & Closing



## WEEK 9

# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What is something that gives you hope about the future?"

### Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4 – "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."
- Discussion Questions:
  - How does the hope of a new heaven and earth shape the way we live today?
  - What does it mean to "live in light of eternity?"
  - How do we maintain hope in the face of suffering and injustice?
  - What are some practical ways we can embody this hope in our communities?
  - How does our understanding of the future kingdom shape our priorities today?



### Activity or Reflection

Have students create vision boards illustrating the hope of God's future kingdom, using images, words, or symbols that inspire hope.

### Service/Challenge Invitation

- Volunteer at a community garden or sustainability project, contributing to the vision of God's renewal of the earth.
- Personal Prompt: Write about your hopes for the future, especially how you envision God's kingdom fully coming to earth.

### Prayer & Closing





## Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What's one legacy you hope to leave behind?"

## Scripture Focus & Discussion

- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:18 – "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
- Discussion Questions:
  - How can we live with an eternal perspective in a temporary world?
  - What areas of our lives need to shift in order to reflect the eternal reality of God's kingdom?
  - How does eternity shape the way we prioritize relationships, goals, and actions?
  - What are some ways we can encourage each other to live with eternity in mind?
  - What does it look like to invest in things that have eternal value?

## WEEK 10

# LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND



## Activity or Reflection

Eternity Timeline – Create a visual timeline showing the "now" and "not yet" of God's kingdom. Discuss how each student's life fits into the broader story of eternity.

## Service/Challenge Invitation

- Service Idea: Plan a service project that focuses on long-term impact, such as mentoring or helping to establish sustainable initiatives.
- Personal Prompt: Reflect on how your life reflects God's kingdom. What choices can you make today that will have eternal significance?

## Prayer & Closing



# WEEK 11

## END-OF-SEMESTER CELEBRATION



### Welcome & Icebreaker

Icebreaker: "What is one takeaway or lesson you've learned this semester that you will carry with you?"

### Activity or Reflection

- Goal: Celebrate the growth, insights, and community built over the semester.
- Group Reflection and Share – Have each person share one thing they've learned and one way they've seen God's kingdom at work in their lives. Share a meal and celebrate the season of growth.

### Prayer & Closing

Thank God for the lessons learned and for the bonds formed, asking for continued strength to live out the kingdom values in the future.







## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

As a LifeGroup leader at Southern, you're not alone—we're here to support you every step of the way. In addition to weekly coaching and a budget to support your group, you'll find a wide range of resources at [www.southern.edu/belong](http://www.southern.edu/belong) under the "Lead a LifeGroup" section. Whether you're looking for fresh icebreaker ideas, help navigating group dynamics, prayer resources, or guidance for ending the semester strong, everything you need is at your fingertips.

If you have questions or need support, reach out to us at [lifegroups@southern.edu](mailto:lifegroups@southern.edu) or stop by the Office of Ministry and Missions, located on the 2nd floor of the Bietz Student Center.

We want you to feel confident and empowered as you lead your group into deeper community and kingdom purpose. From curriculum to care, the Office of Ministry and Missions is here to walk with you.



