

GOD'S KINGDOM & WILL

QUIZ SHOW

1. At times Christianity has imitated earthly kingdoms because Christians wanted . . .
 - a. glamour.
 - b. power.
 - c. success.
 - d. all of the above.

2. We can easily see the need for God's rule when we . . .
 - a. watch the news.
 - b. confess our faults.
 - c. witness injustice.
 - d. all of the above.

3. God's realm is . . .
 - a. a way of life.
 - b. a set of values.
 - c. an identity.
 - d. all of the above.

4. Jesus compared the kingdom of God to . . .
 - a. yeast.
 - b. hidden treasure.
 - c. a pearl of great price.
 - d. all of the above.

5. We can discover God's will through . . .
 - a. prayer.
 - b. hypnosis.
 - c. reading hymns backward in church.
 - d. our own strength.

6. We might not really want God's will to be done because . . .
 - a. we would rather that our will be done.
 - b. it would upset the status quo of the world.
 - c. God's will might force us to share more.
 - d. all of the above.

7. People approach God with fear because . . .
 - a. they have heard about Noah and the flood.
 - b. they worry that God will ask too much of them.
 - c. they are afraid of everything.
 - d. all of the above.

8. If God would listen to me, I might tell God . . .
- a. to make church start later on Sunday mornings.
 - b. that I really don't know how to trust God.
 - c. that I'm fed up with choir robes.
 - d. all of the above.

OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 1:46–55. This passage is a clear description of the upside-down nature of God's kingdom. Write down at least 3 examples Mary gives of the Kingdom of God.

Have students turn to Luke 17:20–21. Some Bibles translate this passage, "the kingdom of God is within me." Finish this sentence: "If the kingdom is within me, then . . ." You may write more than one sentence if you would like to explain your thoughts.

OPEN THE CATECHISM

A "kingdom" is usually understood as a political or territorial place that is ruled by a powerful leader. Using the term loosely, we all live in a variety of kingdoms: a classroom, a choir, an athletic team, home. Think about other kingdoms that are a part of your life. Who is the leader? How is the leader selected? What is the purpose of the kingdom? These kingdoms have a couple of things in common: the power of the leader is limited and they don't last forever—when the class or practice is over, you move out of that kingdom.

What's different about God's kingdom, and why do we ask that it come?

The Bible (the word of God) was very important to Luther. When he wrote the Small Catechism, he included a parable with his explanation of the second petition. Read Luke 15:8–10.

Who is like God in this parable?

Who is like the lost coin?

What does this parable tell us about God?

How does this parable help us understand the kingdom of God?

How does God's kingdom differ from the other kingdoms in which we live?

Turn this back into your small group leader with your name on it!