

Icebreaker: When was a time you felt like you were missing out on something? How did you feel in that moment?

Key Verse: *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*  
Matthew 6:33

Often in popular culture, Christians are represented as people who are defined by the things they don't do or are against. They don't listen to certain kinds of music or see certain kinds of movies. They may avoid drinking altogether or, in previous eras, even dancing. Such reputations arose when Christians began to concern themselves with issues other than the kingdom of God. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus struck deeply into the heart of worry and anxiety. We stop worrying when we see things the way God sees them. He is in control and when His worldview is our worldview, as the hymn writer said, "The things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

Seeking the kingdom first is not a life of less, but of more. What Jesus is saying in these verses is that everything we truly need and desire will be given to us as we seek the will of God. When our thoughts become God's thoughts, our wants become His wants. Because human beings were created to glorify God, seeking first the kingdom of God fulfills our purpose. Our best life is found when we seek God and await His kingdom that is to come. That was what Jesus did in His entire earthly ministry. The point of the Christian life is to be like Jesus, and Jesus was always concerned with the things of God above anything else. When we see things the way Jesus saw them, we do what God says.

God will never lead us in the wrong direction, but always into what is best for us and into what will make our joy full. This does not happen on its own; we have to develop the right view.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we need to . . .

- Recognize the natural characteristics of our hearts.
- Know the characteristics of a Christian worldview.
- Allow Christ to change our hearts.

How do you know when you are seeking something more than you are seeking the kingdom of God?

Today's verse comes from a section of Scripture on worry. How does worry cause us to lose sight of what is most important?

Is seeking the kingdom something that comes naturally to us or something we have to work at? Explain.

### LOOK IT OVER >>>

As we learn to develop a Christian worldview, how should we relate to things in culture like books, movies, music, TV shows, the Internet, or even our smart phones? What bearing does the gospel bring to the way we view and interact with these things?

On the other hand, does having a Christian worldview mean avoiding things in culture? Why or why not?

What are the things in your life that draw your attention away from the kingdom of God?

What have you found is "added to you" as you have searched for the kingdom of God?

## NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Pray that God's thoughts would become your thoughts. Ask that He would make the kingdom of God the first and most pressing desire of your heart over and above anything else. Look to Him, and find your peace, security, and pleasure in Him.
2. How can we encourage one another to see the way God sees? One way is to intentionally memorize Scripture and get the Bible into our souls at the level of our thoughts. What might be some good verses to memorize together? Find one verse from the message this week (or later in the week from The Daily) and spend some time committing it to memory and practicing with someone in the group.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Learn to see the world from God's perspective.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- John 7:16-17
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- 1 Timothy 6:6
- 2 Timothy 2:22-25
- 2 Timothy 4:10

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)*