

# The Kingdom of God: What is it?

**Definition of the KOG:** The proclamation by Jesus that inaugurated his life, death and resurrection. It is the process of God reconciling and renewing all things through his Son, to the point where his will is being done on earth as it is in heaven. The process has begun with Jesus and will be perfectly completed at the end of time.

## **What is the KOG?**

Whew, the definition of the KOG is a mouthful, let's break it down.

- the central theme of Jesus' preaching was its coming
- Jesus is the principal agent of this kingdom
- Jesus initiated the kingdom through his words, deeds and by sending out his disciples.
- The Paschal Mystery accomplishes the coming of the KOG

## **What are some features of the KOG?**

Also known as the  
Reign of God

### **1. The Kingdom is HERE NOW and NOT YET!**

- a. The KOG refers to God's active participation in life NOW
- b. God's presence is seen in actions of JUSTICE, PEACE, and LOVE
- c. Jesus ushers in the KOG.
- d. Jesus' healings were signs of the coming of the KOG
- e. The KOG starts off small, but will grow

### **2. The KOG is of a loving God.**

- a. Jesus addressing God as "Abba"
- b. The Father is merciful beyond understanding
- c. We can be confident in God's love and feel as though we are able to pray to God

### **3. The KOG is for EVERYONE**

- a. The KOG is not for the few
- b. Particularly, the KOG is for the poor and lowly, those who accept it HUMBLY
- c. Sinners have a special place in the KOG

### **4. The KOG is a FREE GIFT from a merciful God, WE CANNOT EARN IT.**

- a. To enter the KOG we must accept the gift of Jesus
- b. We must be a light to the world.
- c. We must love our neighbor as ourselves. (Even our enemies are our neighbors.)

### **5. The Church is the seed and the beginning of the KOG**

- a. Jesus promised he would be with us, he is with us in the Church
- b. The Church is established by the Apostles.
- c. The KOG is active in the Church and the community of believers

### **6. The KOG is united by the Holy Spirit**

- a. Jesus sent the spirit as a comforter to unite us in love with the Father and the Son
- b. The HS is our guide

### **7. The KOG involves a life of service.**

- a. Doing God's will = living morally and serving others.
- b. This life could lead to suffering for doing what is right and good and just (do it anyway!)
- c. Doing God's will involves self denial, sacrifice, walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- d. "A life of service means dying to selfishness, but such sacrifice leads to an eternal life of happiness." ( *Encountering Jesus in the New Testament*, 104.)

*Matthew refers to the KOG as "The Kingdom of Heaven."*