



Discussion Questions for week of 3.9.2025

***Kingdom Rising***  
**"Kingdom Stories"**  
**Mark 4:21-34**

1. Watch this short [video](#) together and discuss it.
2. When was the first utterance of "The Great Commission" and what are the top-line and bottom-line promises in it?
3. What are the three groups Jesus challenges in the Gospel of Mark, and how do they relate to the parable of the four soils in Mark 4?
4. Compare John 18:25-27 with Acts 2:38-39 – what happened to Peter, what is different for him, and how has his worldview changed?
5. How does the concept of the "Great Commission" in Genesis 12:2-3 relate to the mission of Christians today, here, near, and far away? (See Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8)
6. In Mark 4:21-25, Jesus speaks about the importance of sharing the "secrets" of the Kingdom. How does this concept of revealing the Kingdom compare to keeping God's blessings to oneself?
7. According to Mark 4:26-29, what is the responsibility of Christians in sharing the gospel, and what does this parable teach us about the growth of God's Kingdom?
8. In Mark 4:30-34, the parable of the mustard seed is used to illustrate the Kingdom of God. What does this parable teach us about the small beginnings of God's work and its eventual impact? Also look at Ezekiel 17:23, what do the birds signify?
9. Read the story on the backside of this sheet and imagine together what could happen via the ministry of Grace Point in our neighborhoods of Bucks County.
10. With your group brainstorm some creative ideas you might do together to meet your neighbors and begin a relationship in which they can see and hear about Jesus in your lives.
  1. **For example:** you may decide to use one of your group meetings every month to do a fun casual dinner rotating to your various houses where the homeowner for that evening invites their neighbors, friends, coworkers and family over for good food and conversation. Imagine together what that may look like and what they may experience as they watch you interact, pray over dinner thanking God for them, and listening to their lives!
  2. **Other ideas?**

***GP Groups: Know ♦ Care ♦ Encourage***

## A CHURCH STORY

### A preface before reading:

*'Far Off Saints' is the authors term for those still far from God,  
but who will be a follower of Christ someday through the ministry of another.*

"As a pastor in Minnesota for many years, I led a church in a highly diverse neighborhood. Though we were quite inward focused, and program centered when I arrived, years later God impressed on us that we needed to become a highly valued presence in our community. That meant we needed to be intentionally engaged in our community!

We began forming relationships with schools in the area, our city government and engaging in community activities that brought us shoulder to shoulder with people much different than us. We began serving the impoverished, ministering to new immigrants, hosting city events in our facilities, and serving in practical ways in our neighborhoods. We didn't do it all right. We made mistakes and we never did achieve what I would call amazing ministry in our community.

But something happened to us. Our religion, so easily sequestered to our devotional moments and weekends, had now become more real, daily, sacrificial, risk-taking and fulfilling. As a congregation, we knew we were following God's heart to minister to the *'Samaritans'* around us. And something else happened. We became healthy. We began to see new converts...lots of them! In my last two years at this church, we witnessed over 400 'far off saints' commit their lives to Christ! Praise be to God!

In every church I've served, I've seen something amazing happen when we take risk and simply do what God tells us to do. God is waiting to pour out His blessing and favor on local churches across our nation who commit to courageously and sacrificially serving their same areas."

*Far Off Saints, Ivan Veldhuizen, pp52-53*

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