CHAPTER FOUR -

'I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life.'

God is at work in the world. And he invites us to partner with him in building his Kingdom here on earth.

This is a call to live differently.

To live in the world but not be of the world.

To make the values of the Kingdom of God the standard for our life.
When we look at the life of Jesus, we see what this means in practical terms. Jesus' life is the template for living as human beings were designed to live.

The values of the world are not all bad, there is certainly room for goodness. But a task of God's people has always been to challenge those aspects of society that are unhealthy, exploitative or oppressive and to offer in their place practices that bring life and hope.

As followers of Jesus, we need to be thoughtful and prayerful in our interactions.

We can celebrate and affirm what is good and have courage to call out, challenge and oppose anything that works against the values of God's Kingdom.

Our commitment to God makes us who are, and whatever we do must be consistent with that commitment. This means acting with new motivation and it’s not always easy. We won't always get it right.

But we are a transformed people. And because of our relationship with Christ, we can each be a transforming influence in our own situation.

In our actions and our reactions, in our relationships with those we know well and our interactions with those we don't know at all, at home, at church, at work, at rest - we all have the privilege and a responsibility to embody the values of the Kingdom of God, now, in every aspect of our lives.
We are all called to full time ministry.

To live like Jesus.

To bring light, life and hope.

To reflect the values of the Kingdom of God.

Just where we are.

What does full time ministry look like for you today?
So often the compliments we give and receive are based on outward appearance.

Physical features, material possessions, achievements.

Glowing skin, a new car, passing an exam.

There’s a time to celebrate these things but they don’t define who we are.

What if we intentionally shift the focus of our encouragement from what someone has or has done, to who they are?

Joyful, generous, faithful.

We read in 1 Samuel 16:7 that ‘the Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’

This week, look for opportunities to encourage the people in your life with a word about who they are.

Made in the image of God.
Jesus was a ‘Master’ of conversations that led to transformation.

Sometimes Jesus shared a story, sometimes he asked a question and sometimes he explained something.

Whatever he shared in the conversation, it changed something in the lives of people who joined the conversation.

The disciples started to think and act differently, making them signposts to God’s Kingdom.

Having spiritual conversations is life-giving and vital for anyone who wants to follow Jesus.

In a conversation we are able to find the words for what we think, feel, hope for and fear.

In a conversation we are able to listen to the stories of others that help us to better understand ourselves, others and God.

In a conversation we may be surprised by God’s presence through a simple word, feeling or image.
Check out the 'Faith Talks' card game created by the Youth and Children’s team at International Headquarters. This game encourages intergenerational conversations so that people of all ages can express their faith, listen to and learn from each other and deepen their personal faith.

Most of the questions of this game aim for sharing personal experiences rather than knowledge.

Download the 'Faith Talks' game here - https://buff.ly/3fx2Qd3