



Making Room

Journeying together
through Lent

Part 3: Kingdom of God

Songs

[My Jesus I Love Thee](#)

[Open Up](#) by the Brilliance

[Build Your Kingdom Here](#) by Rend Collective

[When God's in Charge](#) by Bryan Moyer Suderman

[Lent Playlist](#)

Memorization

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).

[John 1:12](#)

[The Lord's Prayer \(Matthew 6:9-13\)](#)

Bible Stories

Healing miracles (Matthew 15:29-31, cf. Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1-5)

On this day we'll plan to talk about the abundant life that God designed for us and our world. I'll explain Jesus' healing miracles as signs, or foretastes, pointing to our ultimate redemption. I might also share Jesus' mission from Luke 4:18-22, here, as well. This is also when we'll introduce the week's Bible verse.

John's Baptism (Luke 3:1-14)

Here we'll talk about how repentance prepares our hearts to receive the truth of God's salvation. Repentance cultivates the soil of our hearts. I'll ask them what they think it means to bear fruit in keeping with repentance, and then we'll look at the specific groups John addresses and his instructions to each, zeroing in on his exhortation to share clothes and food.

Pearl of Great Price, Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 13:45-46; 19:16-30)

We'll talk here about true wealth, and both why Jesus is worth everything and why Jesus might say riches can keep people from receiving the kingdom. I'm currently studying the life of Solomon in Bible Study Fellowship, so I'll probably compare Jesus' advice to the rich young ruler with God's affirmation of Solomon in 2 Chronicles 1:11-12. This would be a great day to read [The Quiltmaker's Gift](#)!

Cleansing the Temple (Luke 19:45-48)

This passage is often understood to be Jesus' righteous indignation inflamed against commerce in the temple, but Jesus' phrase "den of robbers" leads me to agree with the scholars who believe that it was actually a premeditated protest against a corrupt system whereby religious leaders benefited, financially, off of the poor. Find one simple explanation is [here](#).

So on this morning we'll focus on the biblical centrality of justice and God's care for the poor.

Love your Enemies/ crucifixion (Matthew 5:38-48, Luke 22:47-53, 23:34)

Our emphasis here will be on the way of love in God's kingdom. We'll use the stories of Jesus' love for Judas and the High Priest's servant as examples. We also might use how Jesus forgave even those who put him on the cross, but I'll probably still wait on the details of that story, as I don't want to focus on Jesus' crucifixion, yet, especially with my 2 year old.

Jesus Frees Captives (Matt 8:28-34)

I don't plan to use this story, yet, as I don't think my kids are ready to hear about evil spirits and exorcisms, but if your kids are older, this could be a great application of Jesus' freeing the captives!

Activities

- Make a few simple meals and use the savings to buy #10 cans for Hope Ministries
- Encourage someone who's sick
- Declutter, give clothes/toys to Salvation Army
- Reconcile with "an enemy."
- Read [The Quiltmaker's Gift](#)