

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Matthew Teaching Series

Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** October 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Talk title:** 'The Main Thing'

**Passage:** Matthew 4:12-17

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Discussion Questions**

In the talk, David focused on the beginning of Jesus' public preaching, and the theme of the kingdom of God/heaven (v17). The main points were that (1) the Kingdom of God is the active reign of God (God 'Kinging-It') resulting in his will being done on earth. This is demonstrated in acts of beauty, justice and the gift of wholeness to individuals; (2) the Kingdom has to be 'entered' by a choice to leave the influence of anything and anyone by God, and yield our lives to him alone (i.e. repent); (3) those who enter the Kingdom in this way are given the responsibility to share the Kingdom blessings and join with God in bringing his will to bear in their everyday lives.

- Teaching about the Kingdom of God marks the beginning of and the end Jesus' ministry (Acts 1:1-3). It was also the core message of the church's missionary activity in the book of Acts (Acts 8:12; 19:8; 28:23,31). How might hearing Jesus and the Apostles' message about the Kingdom draw people to God?
- Preaching the Kingdom was usually associated with signs of the kingdom (e.g. Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35). Why do we see so few of these signs today? How might we see more of them?
- Can you think of situations where you have seen God 'Kinging-It' result in an ugly situation becoming beautiful, an unjust situation be transformed by justice or a broken situation or life experiencing wholeness? How did that happen and what can we learn from these situations?
- Some people react negatively to the word 'repent' because it sounds like Christian jargon. How would you explain repentance to a friend who is asking about coming to faith? Why is it important to do so?
- In your everyday life what might it look like if God got his will done, as it is done in heaven? What would change? How might you be an agent of that change?

**Takeaway**

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

All talks are recorded and may be viewed on TBC's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1OwaJ4eSICosAjl9Ofzjw>