



# Jesus' Kingdom

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Before you start your time together, watch this video from pastor Allen Tipping [here](https://vimeo.com/379842398). (<https://vimeo.com/379842398>)

Take some time now to sign up for giv/STC [here](https://midtowndowntown.com/series/giv-2019). (<https://midtowndowntown.com/series/giv-2019>)

## 1. Catch Up On Life:

*This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)*

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

**Pray:** Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

1. Have questions about the sermon? Ask us [here](https://bit.ly/2Kzyd9B) ([bit.ly/2Kzyd9B](https://bit.ly/2Kzyd9B)) ([form.jotform.com/91616134918157](https://form.jotform.com/91616134918157))

## 2. Review the Mission:

*Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

**Pray:** Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

## 3. Sermon Discussion:

*God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)*

**Primary Passages:** Matthew 2:1-12

2. Looking to grow as a LifeGroup? [MidtownLifeGroups.com](https://MidtownLifeGroups.com)

3. Check out our Bible reading and Prayer Plan based on this series [here](https://midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan) ([midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan](https://midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan))

Read **Matthew 2:1-12** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup:

- What stands out from the passage?
  - What does this passage reveal to us about God?
  - What does this passage reveal to us about people?
  - Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.
  - What stood out overall from the sermon?
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- In our Advent Guide, the theme for this week is Joy. What stood out to you from the daily devotionals this week?

The proper response to joy is showing that in our words and actions. Our giv initiatives are one way we want to show our joy in Jesus. Have you signed up yet? If not, take some time as a LifeGroup to do so now. Go to [MidtownColumbia.com/giv-2019](http://MidtownColumbia.com/giv-2019)

As a refresher, here's what we're rallying after during giv:

- Sign up to tithe - We want our first step of ongoing generosity to be towards the mission of our church. We are encouraging our church family to set up a recurring tithe because the gospel transforms us not just to be generous around the holidays, but throughout the entire year.
- Sign up for Serve the City Weekend - The gospel transforms us to be generous with not only our finances but our time and energy as well. We are coming together to serve our seven partner organizations and their clients at Serve the City Weekend from January 18-20, 2020.
- Raise \$22,000 for our Serve the City partnerships in 2020 - We want to fund Serve the City events throughout the next year and continue to do things like feeding Epworth students each Wednesday night at Student Groups.

- Attend the Personal Finance Class - We want to equip our church family to be spiritually healthy by stewarding the financial resources that God has entrusted to us. On Sunday, January 26, February 2, and February 9 from 9:00am - 11:00am at our Downtown church, we're hosting a class that consists of practical training to manage your finances, pay off debt, invest well, and practice biblical generosity.

## 4. Engage the Heart:

*Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)*

- How have you been abiding (meditating on the Bible and prayer) this week?
- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency" at [MidtownLifeGroups.com](http://MidtownLifeGroups.com))
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What steps do you need to take to obey?

**Pray:** James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other. **Pray** for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.