

Small Group Questions | November 5th, 2017

Kingdom Values: Kingdom Peace (Matthew 6:25-34)

Sermon Recap: Doug spoke on overcoming anxiety by practicing the ABC's of seeking the Kingdom. Jesus lays out the beatitudes for us as a roadmap to all sorts of issues in life, including great anxiety. So when he says "do not be anxious" but "seek first the kingdom of God" he draws us back to the ABC's: poor in spirit, mourning, meekness...Doug lifted up the example of Jesus, who with great anguish before him, went to prayer in the garden of gethsemene. He said seeking first the kingdom ultimately leads us to being, like Jesus, **persecuted peacemakers.**

Hook: *These questions can help encourage conversation.*

1. Our world is full of anxiety cures and stress relieving products. What is the most ridiculous solution you have seen for dealing with anxiety?

Look: *Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.*

2. In the passage, what does Jesus give as evidence for why we *need not* worry about our needs and material possessions? (at least 3 different ideas)
3. Jesus lifts up the eyes of the people to a higher spiritual calling. What should we be thinking of eating? What should we be thinking of drinking? What should we be thinking of clothing ourselves with?
4. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God? How do the beatitudes play into it? How does Jesus model this?
5. Jesus prayed in the face of great anxiety (Mt 26:36-44). How should his prayer inform our prayer?

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

6. What examples did Doug give for how people seek the kingdom in the midst of anxiety? Who do you know that has or is doing this?
7. Why is being poor in spirit so essential to facing our anxieties and seeking the kingdom? How can you embrace the idea of being poor in spirit?
8. Doug encouraged us to bring peace to those we know dealing with anxiety. How might we do this?

Prayer/Verse: But *seek first* the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things (that you worry about) will be added to you. – *Matthew 6:33 (emphasis added)*