

## Small Group Questions | April 1st, 2018

*Easter: The Good News of the Kingdom (Matthew 27:61-28:10)*

**Series Recap:** Our Lenten journey kicked off 40 days ago with Ash Wednesday and the call to contemplate the Kingdom through Jesus' parables. This week we will look back on where the parables of Jesus have taken us and how he has called us to live. In review of this series:

**Ash Wednesday:** The road to Easter is a long road but it is worth the journey. Lent prepares us for Easter by forcing us to think.

**2/18 "The Sower:"** Jesus calls us to consider the Kingdom in its extravagance, reversal, delay, and its disruptive call to action.

**2/25 "The Good Seed and the Weeds:"** Two kingdoms exist side by side, Jesus orders a delay in sorting it out, but that a definite division is coming.

**3/4 "The Treasure, the Pearl, and the Net:"** True treasure transforms: who we are, what we value, and how we live.

**3/11 "The Unforgiving Servant:"** Kingdom forgiveness is a release, a requirement and a response.

**3/18 "The Workers:"** Reverses our focus from the work of the Lord to the Lord of the work.

**3/25 "The Bridesmaids:"** The wise watch & wait despite the known delay of unknown length, with Jesus, because it's worth the wait.

**Easter: "The Good News of the Kingdom:"** Matthew narrates two stories and two options: secure or surrender.

1. Lent calls us to consider the suffering and self-denial of Jesus for 40 days. From this series, have you decided to make any adjustments in your life or to surrender anything?
2. Which of these "sticks of dynamite wrapped in a story" impacted you the most? Why?
3. The parables call us to consider the Kingdom in its extravagance, reversal of values, and disruptive call to action. How has Jesus led you to embrace extravagance, reversal and/or disruptive call to action?
4. We have learned that the Kingdom is both the here and now and the there and then. With that comes a delay which is worth the wait. What have you learned about delay and how will you apply this to your own life?