



PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

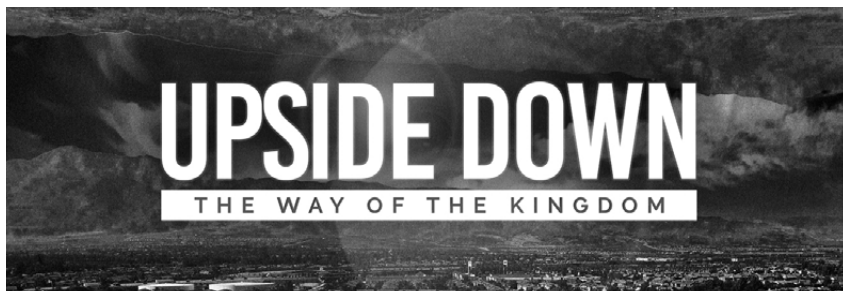
UPSIDE DOWN

THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM

WEEKS 5-9

wolgroups.com





WEEK 5: PARABLE OF THE WHEAT & WEEDS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Pastor discusses the parable of the wheat and the tares, emphasizing the need for self-reflection within the church community. He challenges listeners to evaluate whether they are living as wheat (good seed) or tares (weeds). Drawing attention to the enemy's subtle work within the church, Pastor encourages discernment and awareness of spiritual influences in our lives. Ultimately, he reminds us that transformation is possible through the Holy Spirit, urging us to surrender control and allow God to cultivate the character necessary for producing good fruit.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Matthew 13:24-30 (NLT)

Matthew 13:36-43 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT)

Colossians 1:9-11 (NIV)

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Being Like Jesus

The pastor explains how Jesus highly values our character and our fruit.

- a. How does this parable unveil Jesus' heart for us? How does it affect your heart?
- b. How can we live in a way that unveils Jesus' heart for our family, friends, and church?

2 Jesus' Wisdom

Jesus explains that the farmer (the Son of Man) knew the evil deeds of the enemy but responded with wisdom and patience.

- a. How might we respond with His wisdom and patience when the enemy tries to disrupt our growth?
- b. Consider your life, where are you already implementing His wisdom and patience in places of difficulty? Where do you need His help?

3 Becoming His Children

The sermon explains how we have all been weeds at some point but needed Jesus to transform us.

- a. What would it look like to show the same patience Jesus showed—especially toward people who don't embody a godly lifestyle?
- b. In what ways can you practice patience and grace with someone in your life who may not be living up to your own expectations?

4 Caring Community

Jesus' parable emphasizes distinction, some live for the Kingdom and some live for the world. The reality is the world can influence those of the Kingdom.

- a. How do we better care for those in the church who struggle with worldly ways?
- b. If this is us, how do we allow ourselves to be challenged to be people of the Kingdom?

5

We Belong in the Father's House

The sermon emphasizes the importance of the will in experiencing the Kingdom and suggests that Jesus wants to win our hearts and minds.

- a. What do you think it means to have a 'willing heart' in the context of being part of the Kingdom of God?
- b. Consider a time when you had to decide whether to open your heart to something new or challenging. How did that experience shape your understanding of being willing?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

There is a temptation to simply look the part rather than be the part. Jesus' heart is to shape us and form us to His image.

- Does your character reflect a weed or wheat?
- Where in your life has the enemy planted weeds in your heart that is limiting what God wants to produce in you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, pray on and write down:

- Where God wants to transform your character.
- Ways to begin living into our new, God-given character.

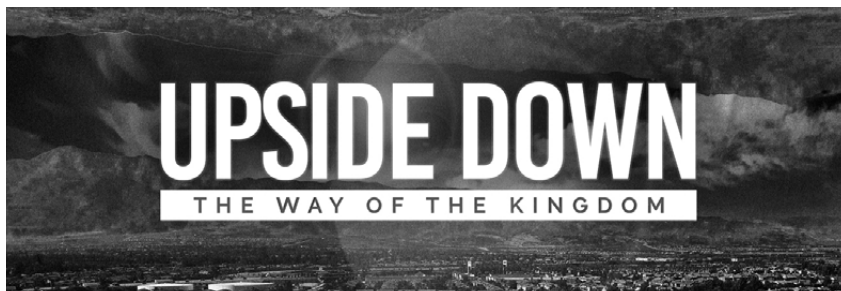
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you begin to live in this new identity we have in Christ.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) : *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.



WEEK 6: MUCH IS GIVEN

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Pastor emphasizes that life in the Kingdom of God is dynamic, challenging us to growth and transformation in participation with Him. As followers grow in their faith, Jesus challenges them with greater responsibilities that invite deeper connection with the Holy Spirit and the community. The focus is not merely on doing more but on being more present. Ultimately, the life Jesus calls us into encompasses trust, maturity, and meaningful engagement in our world through Him.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

Luke 19:11-27 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Kingdom Participation

Life in the Kingdom of God encourages us to be active participants of what God is already up to.

- a. Why does God include us in His mission to serve the community? What does that reveal about who He is and how He relates to us?
- b. How can we habitually participate in God's mission within our families and community?

2 Being Present

Jesus is not just about doing more but about being more present with His Spirit and community around us.

- a. How might being more present with Jesus actually shape what you do and how you relate to others?
- b. How can you begin to practice being more present with Jesus and the community around you?

3 Discipleship

Like in the parable, Jesus gives responsibilities that challenge us to grow with the purpose of multiplying the Kingdom.

- a. What responsibility do you think that God has given you in this season?
- b. How have these responsibilities challenged you to grow more like Jesus?

4 Growing in Maturity

The pastor mentioned that with the journey of faith comes an expectation of maturity that influences our actions. In **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus seems to encourage His listeners to live maturely with what each person is given responsibility to.

- a. What is the benefit handling responsibilities with maturity and wisdom, like the servants with 10 and 5 talents?
- b. How can you take steps towards maturity in your faith, and what impact do you think that will have on those around you?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

God cares for us even in painful seasons of growth—He doesn't want us to live in shame but to grow in truth and maturity.

- Are there areas in your life where you've ignored or mistreated something God has entrusted to you—like a person, gift, or responsibility?
- What might it look like to begin honoring that person, gift, or responsibility differently now?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Growing Faith: This week, pray and write down:

- Where does God want to mature you?
- If shame is tied to a responsibility, what is a truth God wants you to believe instead?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in maturity, teaching you to choose His presence daily.

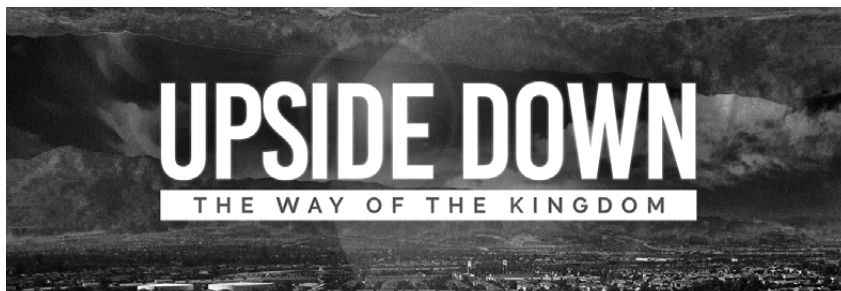
PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

Colossians 2:6-7: *"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



WEEK 7: THE PARABLE OF THE EVIL FARMERS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon explores the rejection of Jesus by religious leaders who were unwilling to accept His message that called for humility and submission. They preferred to maintain their self-righteousness and pride ultimately choosing to crucify Him rather than heed the truth. This rejection serves as a reminder that accepting the Kingdom involves surrendering our pride and recognizing our need for Jesus' grace. Jesus confronts our beliefs to line up with Truth and realign our hearts with His.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 21:33-46 (NLT)

Luke 20:9-19 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Condition of the Heart

Jesus' message is confronting—it calls for real heart change and submission, not outward appearances that increases us.

- a. Where have outward appearances become more important than the heart condition in our lives? Why?
- b. What are some places Jesus is trying to heal the condition of your heart? How are you responding, and what are you learning?

2 Learning Truth

The parable highlights how the religious leaders rejected prophets and Jesus for delivering messages they didn't like.

- a. In **Luke 20:9-19**, the parable illustrates rejection of the messengers. How can we learn from this to be more receptive to truth, even if it challenges us?
- b. Think about someone in your life who speaks truth. How do you respond to them, and what can you do to listen better when they challenge your views?

3 Kingdom Acceptance

The sermon pointed out that the Kingdom accepts those who might not feel they fit in or are good enough, which flips our usual expectations.

- a. Why do you think Jesus' message is considered good news for the poor in spirit and those who feel unworthy?
- b. Have you ever felt unworthy or out of place? How can the idea of being accepted in the Kingdom influence how you see yourself and others?

4 Standing Firm in Jesus

The prophets and apostles are examples of facing persecution for their beliefs, speaking the truth in love.

- a. What should Christians do when their beliefs make them unpopular or lead to conflict, like the apostles mentioned in the sermon?
- b. How might you gracefully stand firm in Jesus' teaching when faced with opposition?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

Sometimes we **need** Jesus to confront our beliefs because His ways are life-giving and ours are not.

- Where in your life might you be resisting Jesus because His way confronts your expectations, comfort, or control?
- How might Jesus be inviting you to exchange self-reliance for grace—and what would it look like to truly accept that invitation today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each day this week, talk to Jesus and write:

- Ask God, where am I resisting His voice?
- Ask Him, how can I live in obedience today?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help guide you in Spirit and truth daily.

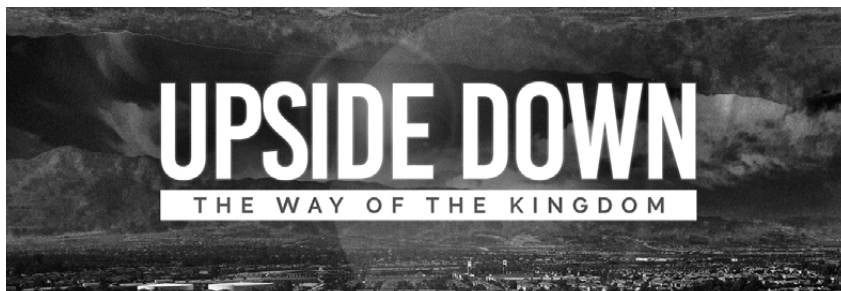
PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

Romans 8:31 (NIV): *"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



WEEK 8: BE READY

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon focuses on the importance of being spiritually prepared for Christ's return, as illustrated in the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. The key difference between the two is the wise bridesmaids' possession of sufficient oil, representing the presence of God. We are challenged to live wisely and in obedience to God, emphasizing that mere church attendance or good deeds do not equal relationship with Jesus. Ultimately, the message calls for genuine, consistent surrender and a life lived in anticipation of Christ's second coming.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Presence of God

The sermon discusses the significance of having oil, representing the presence of God, in contrast to the wise and foolish bridesmaids.

- a. What do you think it looks like to have the presence of God in your life?
- b. How do you believe God wants us to pursue and experience Him?

2 Living Ready

The passage highlights the need for spiritual readiness and the presence of God in our lives as signs of being prepared.

- a. Even though all bridesmaids dozed off, Jesus regarded five as prepared—how can we stay spiritually ready in the middle of ordinary routines and responsibilities?
- b. How can we kindly encourage others to live prepared in ordinary life?

3 Relationship with Jesus

Sometimes people think they are ready just because they attend church or do good things without genuine relationship with Jesus.

- a. What is the danger in living this way? What is the blessing bringing these together while in relationship with Jesus?
- b. What does daily relationship with Jesus look like to you? How can you begin to live that out?

4 Pursuing Teacher

Even in Jesus' stronger statements ("I don't know you"), it seems He is pursuing people by urging them to intimacy with Him and Kingdom wisdom.

- a. Why do you think Jesus gives such a strong statement at the end of the parable ("I don't know you")? What is Jesus' heart in this, in light of the entire context?

- b.** Jesus clearly is wanting to touch their hearts; how do you think Jesus is pursuing your heart through His teaching?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

Jesus' teaching is meant to challenge us towards wisdom, not to shame us in our struggle.

- Reflect and be honest. Where in your life do you relate to the wise group? How do you relate to the foolish group?
- What are some ways you can begin living into Kingdom wisdom everyday?

Reminder: God seeks after both the wise and foolish because He is crazy about us all.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Being Ready: This week, write down:

- One daily habit everyone can practice to seek God more diligently.
- One daily habit you can practice to seek God more diligently.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be consistent in building relationship with Him.

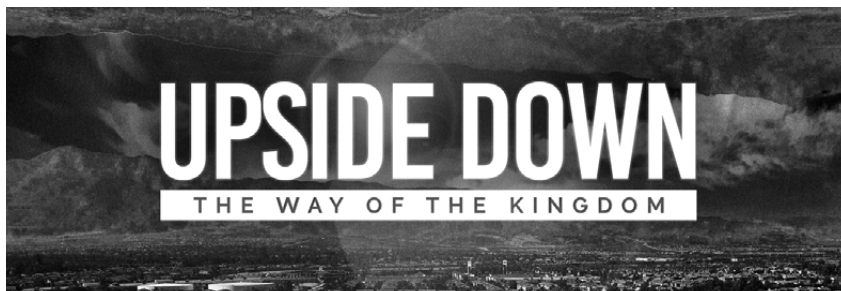
PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV): *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



WEEK 9: AN ABSURD GIFT

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon emphasizes that forgiveness is often not seen as a miraculous and essential act within our spiritual lives. When it comes to the Kingdom of God, forgiveness is not an option, it is a lifestyle we continuously live into that sprouts from our relationship with God. This gift of forgiveness not only heals our connections with God and others, but also breaks cycles of bitterness and retaliation. Ultimately, true maturity in the Kingdom is loving others well, which depends on how well we give and receive forgiveness.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Difficulty of Forgiveness

The sermon discusses how forgiveness is essential and transformative but doesn't always feel like a miraculous or spiritual act.

- a. Why do you think forgiveness is often seen as a difficult or unappealing act for many people?
- b. Can you think of a time when forgiving someone was hard for you? What made it difficult, and how did you feel afterward?

2 Kingdom Maturity

The sermon highlights that the measure of our maturity in the Kingdom is based on how well we love others, which includes offering forgiveness.

- a. According to **Matthew 18:21-35**, what does Jesus teach about the importance of forgiving others?
- b. How does your understanding of this passage influence the way you view forgiveness in your own relationships?

3 Healthy Relationships

The sermon mentions that forgiveness can be a beginning to healed relationships and break cycles of retaliation and bitterness.

- a. In what ways can forgiveness be a 'miraculous salve' for our relationships?
- b. Reflect on a recent conflict in your life. How might offering or seeking forgiveness change the outcome?

4 Practicing Forgiveness

Matthew 18:32-35 emphasizes that those who have received forgiveness should offer it too, which suggests a need for practice in our lives.

- a. What are some practical steps you think we can take to better give and receive forgiveness?
- b. What might be holding you back from offering forgiveness to someone right now, and how can you address that?

Reminder: Jesus' death on the cross was the Father's way of pursuing you and I by repairing relationship with us through His death. His death and resurrection are a necessary remembrance.

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

Forgiveness is not an easy task, but it is necessary to repair relationships. An example is Jesus' death on the cross.

- Who do you need to forgive? If you withheld forgiveness to them, why?
- How might Jesus' death on the cross encourage us to pursue forgiveness with others?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Living Reconciled: This week, pray and write down:

- Who does Jesus want me to forgive?
- How can I live into forgiveness for those it is difficult to forgive?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose a forgiving heart, releasing bitterness to live in peace.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

Romans 12:21(NIV): *"Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good."*

Let the group be reminded of this as you close together in prayer.

NOTES



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The Perspectives Curriculum is written by Small Groups
Volunteers at Water of Life Community Church.