



Week Five

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for your constant presence and desire to move in our life. Please open us to what you have for us and to where you are leading. Amen.

Talk It Over

This weekend we are closing out the series, All Skate, where we have been talking about core values that define our church. These values are the guiding principles that help us to be a community defined by people helping people find and follow Jesus. Today we are talking about our final two core values: Embrace Change and Reveal the Kingdom of God.

- Generally, would you say you like change or do you resist change?
- When are you most likely to resist change? When are you most likely to accept change?

Read Mark 4:31-32 (Voice)

When Jesus described the Kingdom of God, he described it as something that grows. The kingdom starts small but it grows and changes.

- Part of embracing change is understanding that healthy things grow and growth produces change. Where have you seen that idea play out in your life?
- Change can bring discomfort even if the change is good. Explain a time you had to endure discomfort for the sake of good, needed, or healthy change.

Read Isaiah 43:18-19 and Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

There is spiritual health in understanding that the methods or tools we use to encounter Jesus are flexible yet the core biblical truths are enduring. As a church, this means we will be open to changing the way we do church — think language, technology, songs, style, and so forth — while still honoring what we believe to be true of God. There is a clear both/and here. God is always up to new things, yet his character remains unchanging.

- In your own life, have you ever experienced the tension of God being up to new things and God being constant?
- Are you generally open to seeing new possibilities? If so, explain how this works for you. If not, explain why you think you struggle with embracing new things.

Have each person in the group read one or two of the following verses out loud:

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1 (NIV)

Sing a new song of praise to him... Psalm 33:3 (NIV)

He put a new song in my mouth... Psalm 40:3 (NIV)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things... Psalm 98:1 (NIV)

I will sing a new song to you, my God... Psalm 144:9 (NIV)

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song... Psalm 149:1 (NIV)

Sing to the Lord a new song... Isaiah 42:10 (NIV)

And they sang a new song... Revelation 5:9 (NIV)

And they sang a new song before the throne... Revelation 14:3 (NIV)

- In what ways do you sense God is doing something new in your life this season?
- In light of the last question, how might you cooperate with this new thing God is doing?
- In the midst of this new thing God may be doing, do you see God's faithful, constant character? In what way?

Read John 3:3 (NLT) and Read Matthew 4:23 (Voice)

Core to Jesus doing new things, was Jesus' ushering in wholeness, healing, restoration, and redemption. This is what he taught the Kingdom of God was about. The Kingdom of God is where what God wants to be done is done. To be people pursuing the Kingdom, this means we need to be people marked by renewal. We are invited to accept the invitation of the Kingdom and then to extend the Kingdom out to others.

- Where are you seeing wholeness, healing, restoration, redemption, or renewal happen around you?
- Where would you like to see wholeness, healing, restoration, redemption, or renewal happen in this world? What about in your own life?

Read Revelation 21:2-4 (Voice)

In so many ways, this invitation to accept and extend the Kingdom of God is about showing people there is more. It's about us showing people our world can look different. As Jesus followers, we get the chance to nurture and embrace the best change for the sake of the new thing God desires to do. For followers of Jesus, embracing change and revealing the Kingdom of God are inseparable.

- Consider the details of your life, is there an area of your life that can use our influence to usher in good change? What can you do to help usher in that change? Why would that change matter?
- Is there an area of your life you don't have influence over but you desire to see a change in? Tell us about the change you'd like to see and how we can pray for you during this week and season.

Closing Prayer

God, help us to trust and see that you are up to something new. Help us to be cooperative with whatever restorative, new thing you are looking to do. Use us. Change us. Help us to accept and extend the good things you Kingdom is about. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressured to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.