

# Kingdom of God

## Small Group Session 3

As we have together explored the Kingdom of God, we have encountered in its different forms the reality of the already and the not yet of the Kingdom. In the Bible, we encounter those scriptures that point towards the now, the already of the Kingdom and those that reflect the not yet.

And we experience this idea of 'now' and 'not yet' as it applies to our own discipleship. It is equally true to say that when we gave our lives to Jesus we were reborn, renewed and made righteous, whilst we also remain a work in progress, slowly being transformed to be like Jesus. We ourselves are 'already' and 'not yet' people.

One way that this positive transformation takes place is through encountering the power of God's truth in the Bible

We are called to study and to know the Bible but also to be changed - we are called to meditate, to chew on the Word - to allow it to dwell in us and to change us:

**"Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night."** Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV)

So as you begin your evening together, we invite you to [play this video](#) together, a reflective exercise inviting each person to welcome the presence of God and to reflect on these simultaneous truths - the indicative truth that each of us is a new creation - the old has gone, the new has come - and the imperative truth we are called, commanded to change, to be changed.

*Note: You could use the screen share option when meeting online, or you could share the link [trentv.org/kog](https://trentv.org/kog) with your group members and pause (muting their mics and stopping their video) and watch the video and then rejoin the Zoom call when they have finished watching the video.*



## Discuss

Please use some or all of these questions to frame your discussion together:  
As you listened to the reflection:

- Was there a word or a phrase that stood out for you or that you felt the Holy Spirit highlight to you?  
Was there anything that surprised you?  
Was there something that you sense applies to where you find yourself at this time in life and your journey with God?  
Is there a way that you sense God is inviting you to respond?
- ◇ **"The Christian is a glorious contradiction - Through the work of Jesus, we are new creations, holy and righteous in his sight. But we are also a work in progress, becoming who we already are. We are simultaneously triumphant and groaning. As strange as that may feel, let me encourage you that you are a normal Christian."** John Wright

As you reflect on the indicative scriptures (those that declare what is and that declare who we are) and imperative scriptures (those that call us to change and be changed), how do you sit in the tension that these simultaneous truths create?

- What does it mean to you personally to be a new creation?
- What does it mean to you personally to be transformed by the renewing of your mind?

## Pray

As each person reflects on the way that they sense that God is inviting them to respond or where they have ongoing questions, use these to lead you into prayer, welcoming God's Spirit and praying for one another.

## Scriptures

Colossians 1:1

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Peter 2:1

Colossians 3:5

2 Corinthians 3:18

Colossians 3:8

Colossians 3:9-10

Romans 12:2

Philippians 2:12-13

