

Ghost of a King

Leader Guide

The Gray Havens

<http://thegrayhavensmusic.com>

Album Title: *Ghost of A King*

Artist Garden Entertainment

Song: Ghost of a King

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Theme

Salvation / Evangelism

Objective

The objective of this Bible Study is to lead your students to a greater understanding of what it means to be a Kingdom Citizen. Students will be challenged not only to look at how we as believers advance God's Kingdom here on earth, but also look at their own personal encounter with the King. If we are going to be the church that God called us to be, we must humbly take His message of saving grace to all. The church as a whole does not think about the "unreached" because many people see that as being across the ocean. They do not see it as being right in their backyard. They say, "Reaching those people is the missionaries job." Many do not realize the "unreached" are right in their neighborhood. We must help our students grasp a Global Vision to reach "all" with the Gospel of Christ.

Warm Up

A great game to help illustrate the message in the music is called **Not that leader**. Have all the leaders spread out all over the room or gym. On "GO" students will huddle around any leader of their choice. Give 20-30 seconds for students to find the leader that they want to surround. When the leader starts counting down from 5 the students must commit to the leader that they want to surround. The leader will yell stop. Before each round the game leader will have picked a leader (in their head). At this point the game leader will reveal the name of the leader that students should not be around. All of those students are out. Play until one person is left.

Variations:

Shrink the number of leaders as the game goes on.

Students don't have to be "out" just play again.

Lesson intro: Talk about who we should surround our self with.

Transition

The Message of the Gospel declares the victory that Jesus had over death, Satan, and sin. They were each defeated by His first coming, and will be destroyed at His final coming. Our mission as Christians is to share the Gospel with the entire world. Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16 that the keys of the kingdom would be given to the church. We make up God's Kingdom on earth, and we have been given the mission to enlarge the borders by bringing others to a saving knowledge of Him. Prayer is our weapon against Satan, through prayer we can undo Satan's work in the lives of believers. Prayer will help us to know where God is working, and we can join Him there in Kingdom work. In order to understand how to use the keys that the church has been given, we must first understand what the kingdom is before we can unlock its power here on earth.

Read Matthew 16:19

What are the “Keys” to the kingdom?
How are we part of God’s Kingdom?
What is our role as “kingdom” citizens?
How do the Gospel reflect God’s Kingdom?

The Video

The Gray Havens *Ghost of a King*

Transition

Read Luke 24:20-34

The song *Ghost of a King* seems to be a creative look at the encounter of 2 disciples of Christ who walked with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Jesus had been raised from the dead, but these particular disciples had not yet encountered Him yet. As Jesus talked with them, their hearts burned within them. Once they realized that Jesus was walking with them, he disappeared from their sight. They had been walking with a *Ghost of a King* but did not realize what that meant. Jesus, the King, was ushering his Kingdom by providing a way for mankind to be reconciled to God. Salvation is the key to enter this Kingdom. We are called to be “Kingdom” people.

Why do the Gray Havens refer to Christ as a “*Ghost of a King*”
Are you a citizen of the Kingdom?
Have you encountered this *Ghost of a King*?

Bible Study

The Bible explains the mission of a Sending God. God is a missionary God. Even in creation God was sending his Spirit out. The Father sent the Son who then sends the Spirit. We must not reproduce religion, but reproduce the mission of the Sending God.

The biblical meaning of Kingdom is the right to rule, rather than referring to royally-owned interstate. The Kingdom of God refers to the exercise of His authority, and His right to rule based on His might, power, and glory. The mystery of the Kingdom of God is that the Messiah would not just come once but twice. The kingdom has already arrived in Christ’s coming. It has been established in the heart of every believer. Jesus has given us the task of enlarging the Kingdom through sharing the Gospel and being on mission for Him. The second coming will be a time of judgment in which He will purge the earth of sin and evil.

Read John 18:36

The Kingdom of God is achieving a progressive victory over satanic forces to rescue people of all nations from the power of sin in their lives. Christ’s first coming destroyed Satan’s power base, and Jesus won victory over sin, death, and hell. Between His comings, we the church are working to undone Satan’s work on earth. The second coming of Christ will destroy Satan, and Christ will come in His full glory to judge the earth and establish His Kingdom.

In order for God’s Kingdom to continue to grow, we need to be in a state of constant prayer. Our prayers need to be specific and strategic. We need to pray for people to be delivered from idolatry and strongholds in their lives. Prayer is not some mystical magic, but it a source of communication with God. It allows us to be in tune with His Kingdom purpose, become equipped for every good work. We also need to pray for those who have never heard the Gospel. Our prayers will prepare the way for the gospel to be shared and received.

Describe God's Kingdom

Why is prayer a foundational practice of God's Kingdom?

How can we advance God's Kingdom?

Read Psalm 145:13

The establishment of God Kingdom requires us to go to battle. We do not battle against flesh and blood, but against the evil forces of this world. Satan was defeated by Christ's death on the cross, but he still tries to wreak havoc on those who believe. Satan tries to prevent us from sharing the gospel. We must put on the full armor of God, and stand strong because the King of Kings and Lord of Lords goes before us in this spiritual battle.

Jesus came to provide grace and mercy for mankind. He came to establish His kingdom in the hearts of men. He taught that His mercy and forgiveness was for all nations. Because of He did not come in with an iron fist, He was killed. The people misunderstood how the kingdom of God would be established. They knew when the Messiah came, he would establish His kingdom, and it would have no end. They assumed it would be by force and not by grace and mercy.

Jesus acted with a strategic purpose. He wanted to create a dynamic, multiplying movement capable of evangelizing the world. He chose to reveal the gospel first to the Jewish people. Many rejected Him, but there were some who embraced Him as Messiah. He used the disciples who were Jewish to help spread the gospel. Jesus had a heart for the Gentiles as well. On several occasions during His earthly ministry he reached out to Gentiles. From the woman at the well to the Roman Centurion, He proved that the salvation He would bring through His death, burial, and resurrection was for all people. Jesus chose to focus on a few believers and empower them to take His message and purpose to all the earth. He wanted to reproduce His character in them so that they might be witnesses not only with their words, but also with their lives. He also wanted them to reproduce the structure He had established. Through the disciples, the church was formed. The church was to be structured so that believers would be filled with the character of Christ.

Why is the Gospel central in describing God's Kingdom?

How does Christ death, burial, and resurrection usher in God's Kingdom?

What role does salvation play in God's Kingdom?

Read Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission is listed five times in Scripture. It is Jesus' last command to all believers. We must share the Gospel with all nations. All authority has been given to Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit we have the ability to share the greatest news of all time. When the Holy Spirit indwells our lives, we have the power to be effective witnesses for Him. That means not only with our words, but our lifestyle as well. We have a mission that has been given to us by God. We must stay focused and work toward a goal to share the Good News with everyone until the whole world has heard the Gospel. We should also be mission minded. In order for the mission to be completed, people must go and tell. If we can't go ourselves, we need to be willing to support the one who do go.

The ultimate purpose of Christ's ministry on earth was to seek and save that which was lost. Salvation cannot be attained apart from Christ. The idea of Universalism is an empty one. God's forgiveness is available for all, but it is not automatic. Although Jesus' death on the cross was the final sacrifice to atone for sin, we must consciously accept the gift of grace He extends to us.

Jesus commanded us to not only seek and save the lost, but to also teach and disciple believers. He wants us to teach them to observe His commands, and trust and obey Him in every situation. In our churches today, I

believe this part of the Great Commission is forgotten. If we don't disciple new believers, they will not know the true pleasure of living a life devoted to Christ. It would be like helping to deliver a baby, and then leaving it in the crib to fend for itself. In order to change our world, we need to teach and disciple all nations so that all people will be able to live a life devoted to Christ.

Wrap Up

The central message that we need to share with all nations is that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is God's one and only son. Faith must not be based on what we see or feel, or the culture in which we live. Our faith must be in the person of Jesus Christ and His atoning work on the cross. Jesus is unique among all other religious leaders. He is alive and at work in the lives of believers, unlike Mohammad or Buddha whose bones are in their graves. In order for the uniqueness of Christ to be fully displayed, we must live a life that points others to Him. The world is looking for a genuine person to put their faith in. We may be the only Jesus that anyone sees. It is up to us grow the kingdom through a uniquely devoted life to the only one by which we might be saved. That person is Jesus.

The gospel message is intended to be a global message. We need to have a passion for the lost. We need to be broken for those around us who need Christ. Not out of a sense of legalistic obligation, but out of love and genuine concern. People matter to God. We need to see them through the eyes of Christ. When we truly see people's need for the life changing power of Christ, then and only then will we share the way He wants us to. As ministers, we are not in a profession, but in a passion led ministry.

Ask students to consider the following questions:

How can you advance God's Kingdom?

How can you serve the King on a daily basis"?

As you spend time with Christ, can you recognize when He show up in your life"?

What causes your heart to burn with in your chest"?

As you close, challenge your students to live as Kingdom Citizens. Also challenge them to find opportunities where their life intersects with the Gospel. Pray for them to encounter the King as they walk this road of life proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is near.