

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?  
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class; let's bow our heads and ask God for understanding as we answer the question, "What is the Kingdom of God"? The term "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" are interchangeable for they mean the same thing.
- Say - The Bible tells us "(Jesus) went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings (good news announcing the coming) of the kingdom of God: and the twelve (Christ's disciples) were with him" Luke 8:1. In another verse He tells us, pray "thy kingdom come" Matthew 6:10. What is the Kingdom Christ preached about and told us to pray for?
- Say - The Bible tells us the Kingdom of God is the government of the Divine Ruling Family of God into which we must be born with Jesus as "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords". When the last trumpet sounds and Christ returns to this earth for His people, we will be changed into a divine spirit being for "flesh and blood, (that's what we are now), cannot enter the Kingdom of God. We must be "born again", become "spirit beings", into the Family of God, John 3:5, I Corinthians 15:50-53, John 18:37, Daniel 2:44.
- Say - Christ tells us more about His coming Kingdom. He says, "The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed" Mark 4:30, 31. He is saying, just as the tiny mustard seed turns into a large tree so likewise as the "Good News" is told, God's "little flock" will grow into a mighty kingdom, Matthew 13:30-32.
- Say - In another verse, Christ tells us, "The Kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure, once we have found it, it is more important than anything else in the world...Matthew 13:43, 44. That is why He tells us, "Seek ye first (not 2nd, or 3rd but FIRST!) the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..Matthew 6:33, Luke 12:34.
- Say - The Bible says "Blessed, (not cursed) is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors" (not sometimes or when I'm in the mood but EVERYDAY), Proverbs 8:34. We are "blessed" because this is what will obtain our goal, the Kingdom of God. When we spend our time with Him, we will not be tempted by the world's material things; remember we're going to inherit everything anyway, Psalm 37:11, Matthew 5:5.

Say - How can we be in the Kingdom of God? The Bible tells us, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." John 6:44. Once we are called of God, we must prepare for His Kingdom. He said, "Except you be converted (repent of sin, turn around and walk and live God's ways) and become as a little child (innocent of sin), you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 18:1-4.

Say - Christ taught and told His disciples "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel (good tidings) to every creature, He that believeth (obeys) and is baptized shall be saved" Mark 16:15, 16. And that is exactly what the disciples did, they said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (spirit).

Say - The Bible tells us God's spirit is given only to those who obey Him. "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost (spirit), whom God hath given to them that obey (not change His teachings) him" Acts 5:32.

Say - What is God's spirit? God's spirit is a part of Him which gives ETERNAL LIFE! It is the same power which raised Christ from the dead the Bible says! The spirit of God is His character, His nature and it is what makes it possible for us to become like Him. The Bible says it this way, "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (give life to) your mortal bodies by his Spirit (His power) that dwelleth in you (at the resurrection)" Romans 8:10-11.

Say - Which rules or laws will be followed in God's Kingdom? The Bible tells us, "And he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" Isaiah 2:3, 51:4. The entire law of God is found in the first five books of the Bible and magnified in Matthew through Revelation.

Say - Where will God's Kingdom be? The Bible tells us Christ will be coming back to the earth to set up His soon coming Kingdom; now that's "Glad Tidings" or "Good News"! "And it shall be in that day, (the day of the Lord's return) that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem and the LORD shall be king over all the earth,.....and He has made us (those in the first resurrection, Revelation 20:6) unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the EARTH

Zechariah 9:10, 17, 14:1- 4, 9; Revelation 5:9, 10. Also, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth" Matthew 5:5.

Say - When will Christ come to set up His Kingdom? The disciples of Jesus asked this same question. Christ answered them this way, "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" Acts 1:6, 7. However in Matt. 24 we are given an outline of the events which lead up to His coming.

Say - He said, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise, when ye shall see all these things (listed in Matthew 24) know that it is near, even at the doors. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, Matthew 24:32-38.

Say - What will the Kingdom of God be like? It is the "best news you could ever hear"; are you ready? The Kingdom of God will be an "everlasting kingdom" Psalm 145:13; it will be the ultimate "Promised Land" for God's people and all creation wait for. It will be the happiest most abundant time the earth has ever known for Satan, "the god of this world", will be banished and from God, love shall replace hate, goodness will prevail over evil, healing will conquer disease and starvation and the justice and mercy of God shall fill the land!

Say - As we read the following verses, try to imagine the scenery, the fragrance and the unlimited beauty the world we live in shall know forever! "The wilderness (now uninhabited land) and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom (burst forth with buds, flowers, plants and trees) as the rose (an autumnal flower resembling a crocus of violet and white colors)" Isaiah 35:1. Does it sound like a place you would like to spend eternity so far?

Say - "He (Christ) shall feed his flock like a shepherd (an intimate personal friendship): he shall gather the lambs (gently take by the hand unto Him) with his arm (by His authority as our eternal companion), and carry them in his bosom (with a cheerful and merry countenance), and shall gently lead those that are with young (to water and rest)" Isaiah 40:11, Psalm 23".

Say - "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand ...fear not; I will help thee. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water" Isaiah 41:13-20.

Say - "For the LORD shall comfort ...all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like (the Garden of) Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody...for ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" Isaiah 51:3, 55:12.

Say - "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion ... and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed and their young ones shall lie down together....; the child shall play on the hole of the asp (venomous serpent), and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' (viper, snake) den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the EARTH shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" Isaiah 11:6-9.

Say - Yes, God Almighty will soon intervene in human affairs upon this earth! May God give all who hear a repentant heart to heed His warning message and turn to Him with all our "heart, mind and soul" as we continue to pray, "Thy Kingdom come"!.

### MEMORY VERSE

"The wilderness shall flower as a rose...as He gathers His lambs unto Him...He will make the waste places like the Garden of Eden... joy and gladness and the mountains shall break forth in singing...."

ISAIAH

35:1, 41:13-20,51:3, 55:12

### MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

THE WILDERNESS SHALL FLOWER AS A ROSE...

ISAIAH 35:1

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

## WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

THE SOON COMING KINGDOM OF GOD IS THE  
LONG AWAITED "PROMISED LAND";  
WHERE, CHRIST AS KING, WITH JOY AND GLADNESS,  
WE WILL FOREVER WALK HAND IN HAND.

CHANGED TO SPIRIT BEINGS WE MUST BE TO BE IN  
HIS GLORIOUS KINGDOM;  
TO THOSE WHOM OBEY HE GIVES HIS SPIRIT; LET'S  
CONTINUE TO PRAY, "THY KINGDOM COME"!

AS THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN OF EDEN, THE  
WILDERNESS WILL BE, FOUNTAINS OF LIVING  
WATER TO ALL WILL FLOW;  
THE DESERTS WILL BURST FORTH WITH BUDS,  
PLANTS, AND TREES; BLOSSOMING FOREVER  
AS AN UNFADABLE ROSE.

ECHOED THROUGHOUT THIS GREAT LAND, JOY  
AND GLADNESS, THANKSGIVING IN SONG;  
OF THE COMFORT, PEACE, AND LOVE FOR WHICH,  
FROM OUR FATHER, WE HAVE ALL LONGED.

AMONG THE LIONS AND TIGERS WE'LL LIVE AND PLAY,  
NO LONGER AFRAID IN OUR LAND;  
AS THE HILLS BREAK FORTH IN "SINGING" AND THE  
TREES OF THE FIELD IN "CLAPPING", WITH THEIR  
PRAISEFUL HANDS!

"THY KINGDOM COME"

PLEASE FIND AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE TO COMPLEMENT THE STORY OR MEMORY VERSE AND BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES TO BE CUT OUT AND PLACED WITH THE PICTURE FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK.

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