

# May Your Kingdom Come Soon

(Matthew 6:9-13)

## Pre-Session Warm Up

Where is God's Kingdom? How do you get into it? [Teacher, let the children respond.]

Today we're going to learn about God's Kingdom and how we can be a part of it.

## Opening Prayer

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your kingdom come soon. We love you very much and we want to learn how to be part of Your kingdom. Teach us how we can join Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*May your Kingdom come soon. (Matthew 6:10a)*

## Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. It starts off with:

*Our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:9a)*

God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "Father." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "Our Father in Heaven."

Next it says:

*May your name be kept holy. (Matthew 6:9b)*

Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's

important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name."

The next part says:

*May your Kingdom come soon. (Matthew 6:10a)*

Did you know that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth? When He gets here He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! But, unfortunately, not everyone will be entering into His kingdom.

I'm going to introduce you to three people. Each one has an idea of how he or she can get into God's kingdom. Once you hear each story, we'll decide if that person understands what it takes to get into the kingdom of heaven.

[Teacher, make name play-cards for three children to wear around their necks and let each of them introduce themselves, as follows:

1. Hi. My name's Chrissie Christian. My family goes to church *all* the time. I haven't missed a day of church in a year. My family goes to church twice a week—Sundays *and* Wednesdays. And, I always bring my Bible. The way I see it, I go to church so much that God *has* to be impressed. He'll have to let me into His kingdom.
2. Hi. My name is Dora Do-Good. I do lots of good things. Last year I saved fifty dollars of my allowance money and gave it to a food drive for poor people. I volunteer to read to younger students at school every week. I always do extra chores around the house. Nobody does more good things than me! I think this is the kind of stuff that makes God *want* me to be part of His Kingdom. If I'm not qualified to be in His Kingdom, then who is?
3. Hi. My name is Easy Eddie. Am I in God's kingdom? Sure I am. I mean, who isn't? If God is love, then how could anyone *not* be a part of His Kingdom? God isn't going to tell people they can't be part of His Kingdom because they don't believe certain things or because they did some small thing wrong. Everyone is going to heaven whether they've heard of Jesus or not!

Ask the children how each person thinks that he or she can get into God's kingdom and if this way works. Discuss why or why not?]

Many people think that if they behave and go to church, they're automatically be a part of God's kingdom. However, that is not true. God wants us to go to church and to do good things and be kind. However, these things will not get us into God's kingdom. There's only one way to get in.

But the people of Jesus' time didn't understand that. By the time Jesus came to Earth, Israel had been under the power and control of other nations for over 600 years and they desperately wanted to rule themselves. During Jesus' day, the Roman Empire was ruling over them. It was the most powerful kingdom on Earth at that time. They treated the Israelites cruelly and charged them high taxes. The Israelites hated the Romans.

The Israelites knew that the scriptures promised to send them a Messiah, a Savior, who would come and set them free. They were looking for Him to come. But, they expected Him to be a military ruler who would gather a big army and use brute force to give them the freedom they desired. They were expecting God to use this Messiah to set up His Kingdom on Earth. Everyone was waiting for the time when God would rule like a king. They knew that God would be a perfect king and that everyone would be happy to be part of His kingdom. But what they didn't know is that Jesus wasn't planning to set up His kingdom on Earth until later.

God sent Jesus, the Messiah, to be our Savior. But when He came the first time, He didn't come to set up God's Kingdom here on Earth. He came to take the punishment for people's sins so that they might be able to enter God's Kingdom in Heaven.

Someday, at the end of the world, God *will* set up His Kingdom on Earth, but until then, His Kingdom is in Heaven.

Heaven is a wonderful place. It's perfect in every way. There is no sorrow, no tears, no death. And Jesus came to make it possible for us to go there and live eternally with Him.

Jesus also came to show us how to live a godly life while we are still here on Earth. He gave us the Beatitudes to teach us how to live in peace and harmony with others. He wants us to grow the fruit of the Spirit in our hearts so that our lives are ruled by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so forth rather than the desires of our sinful nature.

God is the Great Ruler of all. However, right now, for His own purposes, He is allowing Satan to work on Earth because He wants to give people the opportunity to choose between right and wrong — between Himself and Satan. That's why things are not perfect right now on Earth. But God has promised that someday He will bind Satan and place him into the bottomless pit. Then things will change. At that time He will set up His wonderful kingdom on Earth and live among us as our King.

He wants us to let Him know in prayer that we are really looking forward to that day. So that's why Jesus taught us to pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*"

It's like waiting for a big party like your Birthday or Christmas.

- Have you ever planned a big party?
- What does it feel like when you get ready for a party?
- How did you choose who you would invite?

We can go to God's kingdom party. God has invited everyone to be a part of His kingdom.

John 3:16

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*

God sent Jesus to die on a cross to take away all the bad things we do. So, there's only one way to get into God's Kingdom:

## Ephesians 2:8-9

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. (9) Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

Grace is getting something that you don't deserve. You and I don't deserve to be saved; we deserve to be punished for all the naughty things we have done. But God loves us so much that He came into this world to die for us. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price so we could be invited into God's Kingdom. Anyone who believes that Jesus did this and says "yes" to God's invitation, can come to the party and be a part of His Kingdom.

When Jesus returns to Earth, He'll be setting up His kingdom. It will be a glorious day!

## Revelation 21:18-21

*The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. (19) The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. (21) The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.*

We should all be longing for — and praying for His return. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. That's why in this recipe for prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "May Your Kingdom come soon."

Let's praise Him for letting us be a part of His kingdom.

**Closing Prayer**

Father, You are wonderful. We look forward to the day when you come back to set up Your kingdom on Earth and put Satan in the bottomless pit. We ask that Your kingdom come now. Amen.

**Learning Activities****Craft Corner*****Party Invitations***

Have the children make "Party" invitations to invite their friends to church.

***Time to Celebrate***

[Teacher, make your party sizzle. Give your children party decorations such as balloons or streamers. Have your students decorate your classroom. By decorating the room, the children will experience the excitement of anticipating a party. These emotions will help the children connect to the lesson. And, what's a party without food? Make simple snacks, like spreading caramel dip on apple slices or cream cheese or frosting on graham crackers. Whoop it up!!!]

We know that Jesus *is* coming back. And when he comes, boy, are things going to change! Read Revelation 21:10-21 to get a glimpse of what it will be like once Jesus sets up His Kingdom on Earth!

- Spread colored frosting on graham crackers, and use them to build a square city wall. Hold the walls together with more frosting.
- Stick small candies to the walls as gems.
- Serve apple juice to remind us of the streets of gold.

It's going to be a great day when Jesus comes back!!!

**Game Center**

Use the questions contained in the lesson in a game of your choice.

