

ACTS 1:3-6

*After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of **forty days** and spoke about the kingdom of God.⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

Working Definition of the Kingdom of God

- **Βασιλειο** (Greek)
- **The Kingdom of God is God's _____ through God's _____ over God's _____.**

Acts 1:1-6 — What did Jesus say to them when he talked for 40 days about the Kingdom of God?

- Kingdom _____
- Kingdom _____
- Kingdom _____
- Kingdom _____

- **Past Kingdom of God — Future Kingdom of God — _____ Kingdom of God**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Matthew 6:9-13 — Kingdom Prayer

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

The Challenges for the Church Body in Building This Kingdom

- The _____ properly placed
- The _____ accurately occupied
- The _____ in right order
- The _____ of the King is _____

Digging Deeper

For small group and personal exploration

EXPLORE WITH YOUR HEAD: (15 MINUTES)

- How disappointed are you in the world's condition right now?
— How does that affect your participation in God's work through his church?
- Think carefully about those "40 days" that Jesus talked to his disciples about the Kingdom of God. Discuss what those 40 days must have looked like.
- Do some quick research of the Gospel stories, and think of some of the places where Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God (use your Bible concordance if you need to).

EXAMINE WITH YOUR HEART: (15 MINUTES)

- Is the Church today supposed to reflect the Kingdom of God? If so...what would that look like?
- Do you understand this church's mission to be, to preach about and to teach about the Kingdom of God? Talk through why or why not.

APPLY WITH YOUR HANDS: (20 MINUTES)

- What is your goal for this church?
- Look at "The Challenges for the Church Body" in the sermon notes. How do these challenges help shape how we build his church here? (*Think deeply and carefully, and answer honestly.*)
- Look at Matthew 18:1-4. What is one of the greatest character traits of those who live out the Kingdom of God?
- What descriptions for the "Kingdom of God" have you learned so far?
— Does this help shape your understanding of how to **build his church**?

NEXT WEEK

We will be still building on the Kingdom Wall. To prepare yourself, read ahead:

- Acts 1:5-7 & 2:1-5
- Matthew 12:22-28