

(1) Take a few minutes and describe your own frustrations and fears in the light of what is happening in our country. Does this ever cause you to doubt if God is in control? Does it cause you to wonder if God cares? Have you ever identified with John the Baptist (see Matt. 11:2-6)? How have you dealt with such questions?

(2) Talk about the misconceptions that you and others have had about the nature of the kingdom of God. How have you misunderstood what it is and what it entails?

(3) Several elements in the kingdom of God are the forgiveness of sins, the power to heal the sick, and freedom from demonic oppression. Can you describe instances in your life when you saw these things happen?

(4) What do you make of the statement in Revelation 1:5-6 that we, the people of God, “are” the kingdom of Christ? How should this affect our approach to life in the local church in community with other believers?

(5) What do we mean when we speak of the “already” and the “not yet”? How does understanding this help us cope with the frustrations we feel in the face of such chaos and evil in the present day?