



DISCUSSION GUIDE

READ
Luke 1:26-33
Mark 1:14-15

Here are some questions and thoughts to help guide discussion:

1. Last Sunday, we had ended the service with singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," highlighting God's 400-year silence after Israel's exile had ended. How was that silence broken? How did this introduce the idea of the kingdom? Compare Luke 1:13-17 with Malachi 4:5-6. Read also Luke 1:33, 54-55.
2. Jesus' disciples are often criticized for thinking that Jesus was going to establish a political kingdom on earth, and would defeat Israel's enemies and take His seat on the throne in Jerusalem. Yet, in what ways were the disciples right? What would you have expected from Jesus if you had been one of His disciples and heard Him preaching that the kingdom of God was at hand?
3. As we have heard in nearly every sermon so far, people have continually failed to uphold their end of each covenant. As you've been listening to each sermon, in what ways have you noticed that Jesus fulfills each covenant?
4. Chris mentioned that his heart for the next few weeks is that we'd all see the glory of Christ through His fulfillment of God's covenants. How have you already seen His beauty and glory in the sermons so far?
5. In what ways is the kingdom of God already here? In what ways is it still to come? How does this perspective help you make sense of your own life and the world around you? How does this perspective help you this very week?
6. As we remembered this Sunday, baptism is our way of declaring that we believe in and follow Jesus, and that we believe that His kingdom is here and is coming. Have you been baptized? If not, what has been/is keeping you from taking that step of obedience?