



KINGDOM COME

- Welcome
- Prayer
- How's your Lent going?
- Leaderboard update



- Get everyone to stand in a circle facing inwards. Learn each others names. The leader running the game will need to stand in the middle of the circle. The leader points at someone in the circle and say ZAP!. That person must duck down straight away and the two people either side of them must turn to face each other, hold their hands in the shape of a zapper and say/yell the name of the person also zapping. All this needs to happen as quickly as possible.

Whoever ends up getting "zapped" is out. So if the person who gets zapped at originally doesn't duck down quick enough, then they are out. If they do duck down quickly, then whoever says the correct name first out of the two people either side of them stays in and the other person is out.

When there are only two people left, they stand back to back, and the person who was in the middle starts counting. With each count the two people take steps away from each other, western style. The person who was in the middle then yells ZAP, and the two people turn and say the correct name. The person who is fastest wins, and gets to be in the middle the next round.

This is a super fun youth group game that needs to no extra materials and is easy to explain and get the hang of. Kids might want to play a few rounds so they can get a second chance if they get out really quickly.

For the leader running the game, after a few turns they might want to make their pointing a bit trickier by looking away or spinning in a circle. Be creative!



- *In the Gospels we hear the story of Jesus' 33 years on earth, and most of those stories come from the short three years that He walked through countless towns and villages and encountered the people there. Although He did many different works and told various parables, His message was always the same — the Kingdom of God was near, and it still is today.*
- We learned that for the first 30 years of His life, Jesus lived a quiet normal life growing up in a simple and humble home with Mary and Joseph. There is not much known about those years; the majority of what we know about Jesus comes from the final three years of His life known as His public ministry.
- Jesus' public ministry officially began when He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.



- Matthew 3:13-17 says:
- Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
- John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?"
- Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him.
- After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him.
- And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son,* with whom I am well pleased."

When Jesus was baptized, we hear the voice of God the Father telling us that Jesus is His beloved Son. The same thing happens in our baptism, we become sons and daughters of God.



- Matthew 4:1-11 says:
- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
- He fasted for forty days and forty nights,^b and afterwards he was hungry.
- The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."
- He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"
- Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple,
- and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you' and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"
- Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"
- Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,
- and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."^c
- At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship
- and him alone shall you serve.'"^d
- Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.
- Straight from His baptism, Jesus goes to the desert to spend forty days and nights fasting and praying.

- *What is the longest you have ever gone without eating? How did you feel in this situation? Do you think that Jesus felt this same way when He was fasting?*
- On the 40th day, Jesus is visited by Satan who tempts Him to disobey God, but Jesus is faithful to His Father.
- We remember Christ's time in the desert and His faithfulness to the Father each year during the season of Lent. The forty days of Lent mirror Jesus' experience — it's a time of penance, prayer, and fasting.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

The Gospels are filled with the stories of Jesus' public ministry.

- What was the purpose for all these words and deeds?
- What is the Kingdom of God?
- It is not so much physical land as it is a spiritual gathering.

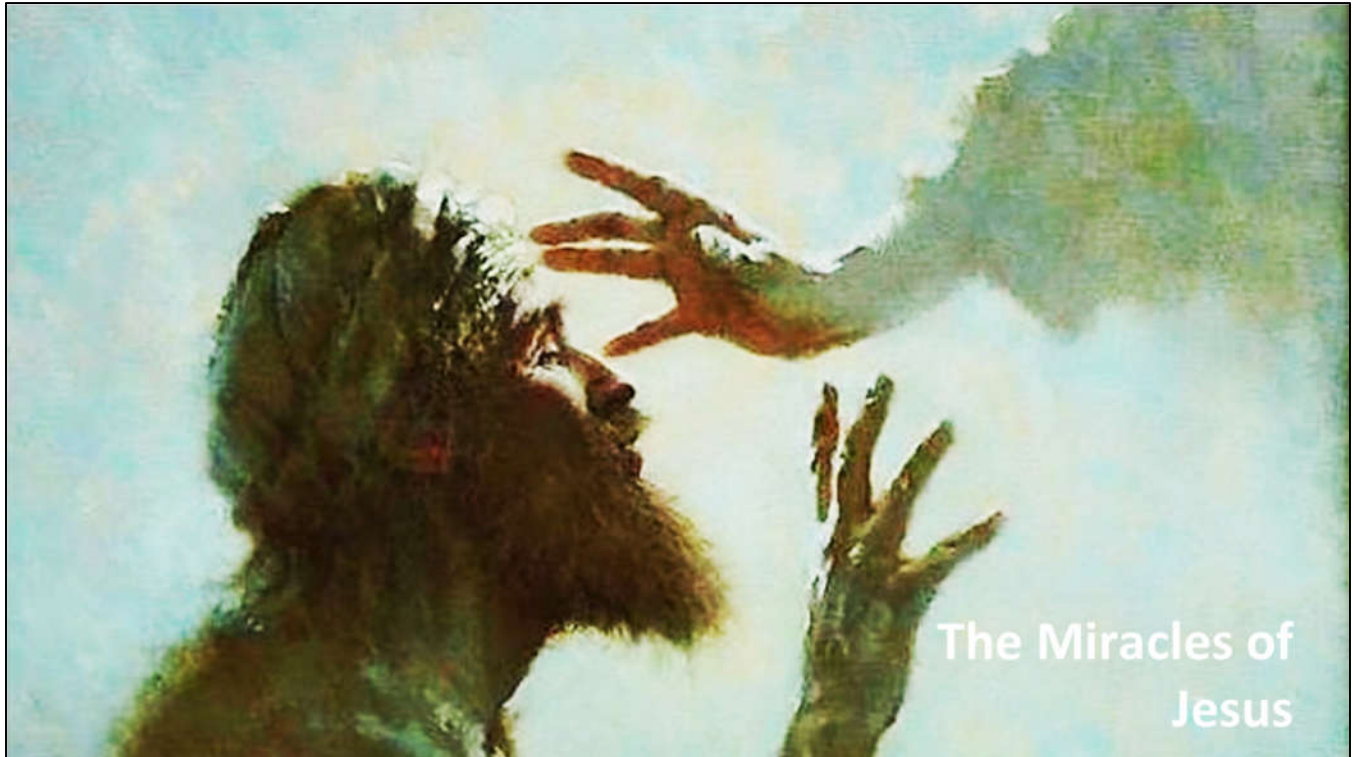


- The Gospels are filled with the stories of Jesus' public ministry. We hear the words He spoke, the miracles He performed, and the love He showed to all whom He encountered. But what was the purpose for all of these words and deeds? All of these things pointed to the simple truth that Jesus came to proclaim that the kingdom of God was coming. ***What do you imagine when you think of a kingdom?***
- What is the Kingdom of God? Well, a kingdom by definition is the territory of land ruled by a specific king. So, the Kingdom of God is God's specific territory, but it is not so much physical land as it is a spiritual gathering of all His people through the saving work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

KINGDOM OF GOD



- First of all, this Kingdom refers to heaven, but also the Kingdom of God is here on earth because Jesus is present with us.
- We experience the Kingdom of God on earth through the Church. God the Father desired to gather people together to share in His divine life. This was fulfilled through Jesus who establishes the family of God, which we know as the Church.
- Although Jesus first announces the coming of the Kingdom to the people of Israel, the Kingdom of God is for everyone — the poor, broken, sinful, and lowly. In fact, throughout Sacred Scripture He proclaims, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” and “I came not to call the righteous but sinners” (Matthew 5:3; Mark 2:17).
- During His time on earth, Jesus didn’t just tell us about the Kingdom of God, but He also showed the people that power of God was real, present, and working in their lives.



- He healed lepers, raised Lazarus from the dead, multiplied food, and calmed the storms to help us believe that He is who He says He is — the Messiah. All of His miracles invited those who witnessed them to respond in faith.
- Although Jesus was able to cure many people's sickness and illnesses during His public ministry, His greatest work was freeing us from the slavery of sin.
- The coming of God's Kingdom means the defeat of the devil. During His life, Jesus showed His power over evil and darkness when He freed those who were possessed by demons, and, ultimately, He defeats sin and darkness through His death on the cross.



TWELVE MEN

Jesus chooses the most unlikely people to walk and journey with Him.

- Jesus gives them the authority to preach the Kingdom of God
- Peter was chosen to be the rock of the Church
- Peter was our first Pope.

- Jesus chose twelve men to travel with Him during His public ministry. We know these men as the twelve apostles. He chooses the most unlikely people to walk and journey with Him. They were uneducated fishermen, tax collectors, a zealot, and even a teenager. Jesus gives them the authority to preach the Kingdom of God and even to heal and cast out demons.
- Of these twelve men, one had a very unique role — Peter. He was chosen to be the rock of the Church after an encounter he had with Jesus.
- Peter was given a specific authority by Jesus and was our first Pope.
- Peter was one of the three apostles, along with James and John, who got to be present when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain revealing His future glory and once again that He is the Son of God. (CCC 554-556)



THE DISCIPLES WERE WITNESSES TO INCREDIBLE THINGS

- The apostles got to witness many incredible things because of the time they spent with Jesus. It was to the apostles that Jesus first reveals that He is going to suffer, die, and rise from the dead.
- It is this very action of Jesus dying and rising from the dead that establishes the Kingdom of God forever. Not only does it reveal the power of Jesus Christ, our true King, but it opens for us the doors to heaven, which is the everlasting Kingdom of God.
- It is this Kingdom that we are destined for, and we are called to follow Jesus Christ, the one true King, and to be His disciples. He calls each and every one of us to follow Him and to proclaim the Kingdom of God that is here and present through Christ in the Church and also the Kingdom that is to come.
- *Ask the youth to respond: What is one thing I can do this week to share about the Kingdom of God?*
- It will not be an easy battle, to stand up for the Kingdom of God here on earth will be challenging — but we know we ultimately have a King on our side who is all powerful and has already won the whole battle by His death on the cross.

Group Discussions

- What is one thing that stuck out to you from the teaching today?
- How would you describe the Kingdom of God?
- What do you think it would have been like to witness one of Jesus' miracles?

Group Discussions

- What do you think it was like to be an apostle?
- How can we continue Jesus' mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God?
- Do you believe that God still desires to work miracles today?



LENT REVIEW

ALMSGIVING

PRAYER

FASTING





THE STATIONS



HOUSEKEEPING: Fish Fries every Friday. Stations of the Cross. Don't give up on yourself for Lent!!