

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Date: 5/07

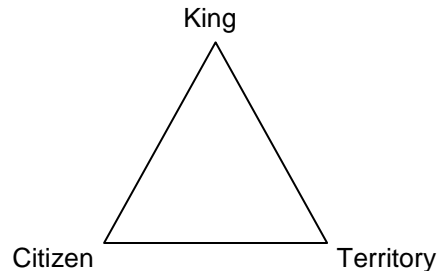
(1 HOUR)

- OBJECTIVES:**
1. Participants will understand the wholistic nature of the Kingdom of God.
 2. Participants will allow Jesus to rule in every area of life.
 3. Participants will act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS: The material in this lesson is summarized from a presentation by Steve Simpson to the CHE Regional Consultation held in Cambodia in March 2007. This is the first in a series of lessons on the Gospel of the Kingdom.

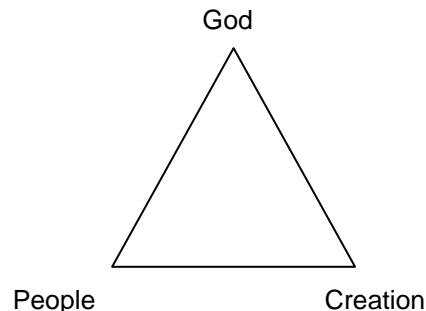
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Introduction: Draw a triangle and ask the group to identify the three major elements of a kingdom



Draw a second triangle and ask the group the following questions:

1. What are the three elements of God's kingdom?
2. When did God's kingdom begin?



God's kingdom began at creation

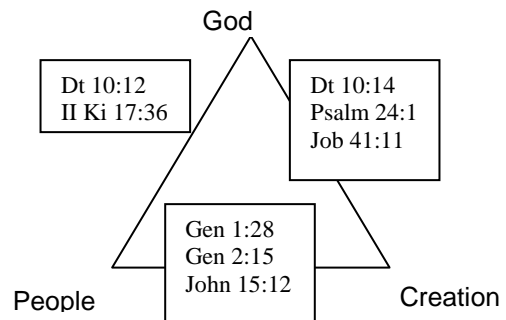
- I. Put the triangle at the right on newsprint for everyone to see. Divide into small groups, look up the following verses, and have each group choose one word to describe each of the following:

The relationship between God and People: Deuteronomy 10:12; II Kings 17:36

The relationship between People and Creation (which includes other people): Genesis 1:28; 2:15; John 15:12

The relationship between God and Creation: Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1; Job 41:11.

- I. Small group discussion



THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

METHOD
TIME
KNOWLEDGE

- II. Have each group write the words they have chosen on the triangle.

Underscore or write the words worship, ownership, and stewardship on the participant's triangle. Put the word Lordship in the middle of the triangle.

Discuss the concepts with the large group explaining that worship has to do with our personal relationship to God, stewardship with how we relate personally to each other and to the world in which we live (care and compassion), and ownership with authority and justice (God's intentions for the use of what He has made).

- III. Break into small groups and give each group a set of Kingdom Triangle flashcards. Have participants assign each of the words or phrases on the flashcards to just one side of the Kingdom Triangle. There should be four flashcards on each side of the triangle.

Worship

Fellowship with God
Gratitude towards God
Forgiveness received from God
Salvation for Eternity

Ownership

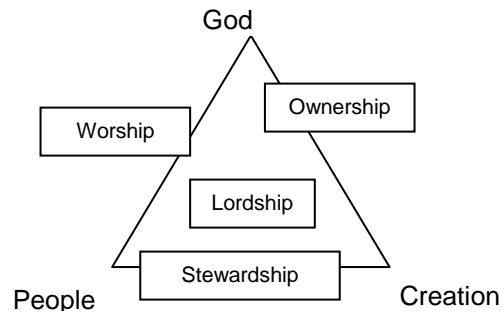
Justice for all
Authority to uphold what is right
Fair access to resources
Freedom from oppression

Stewardship

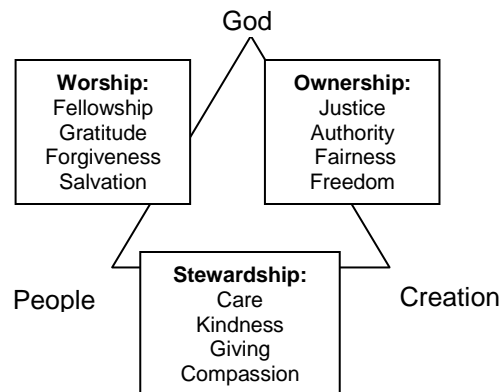
Care for the environment
Kindness and generosity
Giving to the poor
Compassion for others

Discuss: Did anyone find it difficult to put things into categories? Why?

- II. Relationships in the Kingdom



- III. Kingdom Triangle



The triangle is a whole and the sides are integrated. It is impossible to separate God's intentions (ownership) from our responsibility (stewardship) or our love for God (worship) from our love for neighbor.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

METHOD

TIME

KNOWLEDGE

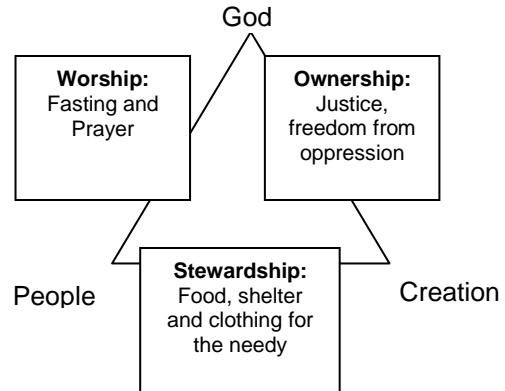
- IV. Have someone read Isaiah 58:1-10. Put each thing God says He desires on one side of the triangle.

- A. What happened when Israel fasted and prayed, but neglected compassion and justice?
- B. What happens when one side of the triangle is removed or broken?

- V. Ask the question: "What was the purpose for which Christ came? Read Luke 4:17-19 and 43.

Do these verses change our thinking at all about the purpose of Christ's coming? Which sides of the triangle did Jesus' ministry address?

- IV. What God desires



- A. What happened when Israel fasted and prayed, but neglected compassion and justice?
1. God rejected their worship.
 2. God did not hear their prayer.
 3. The people suffered.
- B. What happens when one side of the triangle is removed or broken?
1. When we neglect justice and compassion, God is unimpressed by our religious performances.
 2. When we act justly and show compassion, God hears and answers our prayer.
 3. Justice and compassion are genuine expressions of true worship. The three cannot be separated.

- V. The purpose for which Christ came

- A. Jesus came to die for our sins. Matthew 20:28
- B. Jesus came to preach good news to the poor. Luke 4:18
- C. Jesus came to proclaim freedom for prisoners.
- D. Jesus came to restore sight to the blind.
- E. Jesus came to release the oppressed.
- F. Jesus came to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
- G. Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom.
- H. Jesus' ministry was concerned

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
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with all three sides of the triangle.

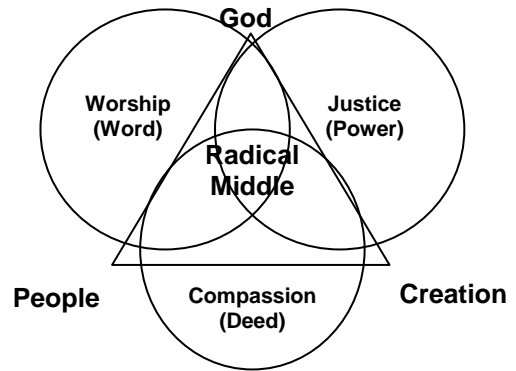
VI. Read Micah 6:8 and discuss:
How does the Gospel of the Kingdom find expression in my own life?

- VI. How the Gospel of the Kingdom finds expression in my own life
- A. I act justly.
 - B. I show compassion (love mercy).
 - C. I walk humbly with God.
 - D. I am concerned with all three sides of the triangle.

VII. Ask: How does the Gospel of the Kingdom find expression in the church?

- VII. How the Gospel of the Kingdom finds expression in my church
- A. The church teaches love for God and neighbor.
 - B. The church's ministries address both the physical and spiritual needs of people.
 - C. The church stands for justice and righteousness.

Explain the diagram to the right. While churches often tend to emphasize one side of the triangle over the others, our goal is the radical middle. There are churches that emphasize worship over compassion or word over deed. There are other churches that emphasize social action and neglect the preaching of forgiveness and eternal salvation. There are churches that emphasize God's power and neglect stewardship. Our goal is the radical middle.



- MATERIALS:**
- Newsprint
 - Marking Pens
 - Masking Tape
 - *Kingdom Triangle Flash Cards*

Fellowship with God	Justice for all
Care for the environment	Gratitude towards God
Authority to uphold what is right	Fair access to resources
Forgiveness received from God	Giving to the poor
Compassion for others	Salvation for eternity
Freedom from oppression	Kindness and generosity