

Small Group Study Guide

Week #1 - "Where is the End Zone?"

MAIN POINT: We must know where we are going

Gathering Question:

What experience have you or any members of your family had with organized team sports (at any age level)? What do you like about it what do you not like about it?

Watch Video

Reflection Questions

1. For the purposes of this campaign we are considering IRPC part of God's larger team to partner with Him for His purposes. As you think about this analogy what excites you about thinking that you are part of God's team? What makes you nervous about thinking that you are part of God's team?
2. This week we are talking about how God's ultimate goal is to bring about His Kingdom. One way to understand God's Kingdom is to look at His original design in creation. Read Genesis 2:15-25, from this passage, the video, or from the message. What is life like in God's perfect creation?
3. Take a minute on your own and skim over Genesis 3. What was life like after the people disobeyed God? Specifically, what was lost from God's original creation?
4. As you look around you where do you see the current effects of the sin in our world today? (Look specifically at the natural contexts around you such as your home, your place of business, your neighborhood, and the community at large)
5. What would it look like for "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven"? Specifically what would it look like in the contexts that you just mentioned in question 4?
6. What would it look like for you personally to have the Kingdom of God more present in your life?
7. The church is to be the greatest reflection of God's Kingdom. What would it look like if our church more fully reflected the Kingdom of God? Think about the broadest range of situations reflected in this question from first time guest to long time member, from the very young to the very old, from the very involved to the not very involved, from inside the walls of the church to the community at large.
8. While we could never fully quantify what it would look like for God's Kingdom to come, we have begun to articulate it by spelling out our mission and vision. (See below). How does our mission tie in with this idea of the Kingdom of God? How does our vision tie in with this idea of the Kingdom of God?
9. Are you willing to play? Are you willing to allow God to work powerfully in you to establish His will and purpose in your life? Are you willing to allow God to work through you for His purpose in the world?

Closure: Pray for one another and that God would move powerfully in your lives and in your group.

This Week:

1. Continue to pray for the group
2. Ask God to open your eyes and heart to the ways in which His Kingdom needs to be more greatly manifested in the world.
3. Take an opportunity to write down your insights and possible actions in the "Game Plan" Section of the book.

Mission - To love God, Love Others, Make Disciples

Vision

1 New churches will have been planted within our extended community.

100% of our membership will be involved in WORSHIP, an opportunity for GROWTH where they are engaging with God, His Word and His people, and fulfilling their God-given call in SERVICE.

500 People will be served at the outreach center on our west campus. The ministries will be meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our community by using the gifts and passions of the entire church.

1000 people will be involved in a pathway of discipleship and maturity for all ages that begins with creating welcoming environments for those who do not yet know Jesus and culminates in developing the next generation of pastors, church planters, and missionaries.

On This Team Everyone Plays