



# Sunday Teaching Guide

## Prayer Week 3

### January 29, 2022

#### Bible Texts

- Matthew 6:7-13
- Genesis 1:1-9
- John 1:1-5, 14
- 1 John 4:13-16
- Revelation 21:1-5a

#### Important Terms

- The Word: This word is used by the writers to refer to Jesus.

#### Sermon Notes

- In the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we read about God seeking them even though they sinned. One thing to learn from this story is that even when we are aimlessly walking, God is always searching us out. Our sin, shame, and pursuit of our own desires can drive us from God, but he will always seek you, and always invite you home in his presence.
- The way that some people view God and the world is about getting out of here and going somewhere else, but this view misses the most significant part of the good news of Jesus: that God has come to us. In this evacuation theology, this life becomes irrelevant. This beautiful world and times the people who live in it are expendable unless they serve our purposes.
- There's another danger of the other end of the spectrum called dominion theology, which is exert a form of Christianity upon others by force. Both errors both the point of the prayer of Jesus.
- In evacuation theology, Jesus can't save the world because it isn't worth saving so people get fixated on only getting to heaven. In dominion theology, Jesus is told to sit by as people who seek control try to force onto others a version of Christianity full of judgment, hatred, and power.
- Jesus's prayer isn't that we sit idly by waiting to get there or that we would try to obtain our own misunderstood version of his kingdom. Jesus's prayer is that we experience a glimpse of what he is making new and show others that reality in how we live.

#### Reflection Questions

- What are some ways that you see people living solely for another world? What do these people's lives look like? Do you find yourself thinking too much about God's Kingdom in Heaven sometimes instead of thinking about God's Kingdom on Earth?
- How would you try to explain to someone that Christianity is not about living solely for another world?
- What are some ways that you see people trying to forcing Christianity on the world by force?
- What do you see as the best ways to bringing Christianity and God's Kingdom into this world without doing so by force?
- How would you explain to someone about what the Kingdom of God on Earth looks like?
- What are some ways that you can do a better job of bringing in God's kingdom to this world?

#### Prayer for the Week

- God, help me to focus less on your kingdom in Heaven and to focus more on bringing your Kingdom on Earth. As I try to do so, help me to remember to not forget your principles and teachings as I show others what your Kingdom looks like. Amen.

#### Additional Readings

- Matthew 13:44-46
- Mark 4:30-34