

MODULE 5: KINGDOM MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION



In this module, **Rich Nathan** teaches the Biblical roots of Kingdom Theology— and what that means for you today.



Then, **Steve Nicholson** teaches on participating in Kingdom ministry in a practical way.

These videos will help you answer two central questions:

1. How is God working to bring His Kingdom through us, His people?
2. How can I participate in Kingdom ministry?

SESSION 1: KINGDOM THEOLOGY

Video Notes

- 1. What is at the center for the Vineyard movement? The message of the Kingdom of God.** Mark 1:14-15; Acts 1:3; Acts 28:23; Psalm 103:19-22. The phrase “the Kingdom of God” or “the Kingdom of Heaven” appears 100 times in the New Testament - and was the central theme of Jesus’s ministry. Because the Old Testament continually proclaims that YHWH is the King of Kings who rules over everything, the Jews who heard Jesus’ message understood what he was proclaiming.
- 2. The Kingdom of God means healing, prosperity, and blessing for God’s people.** Genesis 2, 1 Kings 4, Isaiah 65, Luke 4:18-19. The word that most encapsulates this healing, prosperity, and blessing is “shalom.” Shalom means total well-being in every area of life: past, present, and future.
- 3. The Kingdom of God means the defeat of the enemies of God’s people.** God cannot bring his reign to the realm on earth until everything that wars against God’s shalom is defeated.
- 4. The Kingdom of God means the creation of a people who live distinctive lifestyles wholly for the Lord.** The covenant for Israel can be summarized as, “Be holy for I am holy.” In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ message can be summarized as, “Be different.”

5. **The Mystery of the Kingdom: the Kingdom was inaugurated in Jesus's first coming but it will be brought to completion when Jesus returns again.** These two stages of the kingdom explain why we sometimes see healing but not always, why we sometimes see justice in this world but never complete justice, and why church can be wonderful and yet sometimes still filled with disappointment and frustration. We in the Vineyard call this period we live in "the already and the not yet."
6. **How can we see more of God's dynamic rule or reign in the realm of this earth?** God has chosen to partner with people to bring about His will in the world. "God is the working-through-humans God" (N.T. Wright). God wants to work through us.
7. **God wants to work through us through the words, works, wounds, and welcome of His people.**
8. **When God's Kingdom comes fully, "everything sad will become untrue" (Tolkien).** Everything sad that we have experienced in our lives will all become untrue when the Kingdom of God comes to earth as it is now in Heaven.

SESSION 1: KINGDOM THEOLOGY

Reflection Questions

- 1.** Reflect on how Rich described the Kingdom of God as the center of the Vineyard movement and the central story of the Bible. Is this how you have always been taught about the Bible? If not, how is this teaching different from other ways you have been taught? If so, how do you think this message has shaped your understanding of faith, church, and the world around you?
- 2.** The Kingdom of God means shalom, total well-being in every area of life. In Jesus, God's Kingdom, God's shalom, was inaugurated. How have you experienced shalom in your life in the past year or two? How have you brought this shalom to someone else through your words, works, wounds, or welcome? Take time to write out your experiences, and then thank God for His work in and through you.
- 3.** When God's Kingdom comes fully, everything sad will become untrue. Yet, we are living in a period we often call "the already and the not yet." When you think about the "not yet" in your life or in your world - where things remain sad - what first comes to mind? What questions or emotions surface? Take a few minutes to write these thoughts as a prayer to God.
- 4.** God wants to work through us. In what ways do you see God bringing His rule or reign through the words, wounds, works, and welcome of your church community? Where or how would you like to see more?

SESSION 2: KINGDOM MINISTRY

Video Notes

- 1. You can only do Kingdom ministry by the power of the Holy Spirit.** Acts 1:4-5. You can do plenty of ministry in your own power - but Kingdom ministry can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit. All Kingdom ministry is not about convincing God to do something. Instead, He does something to us, and then he does something through us.
- 2. When the Holy Spirit comes, he wants to EMPOWER people, HEAL people, DELIVER people, and CALL people to more** (2 Corinthians 3:17). You first need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and then learn to pay attention to and participate in what the Holy Spirit is doing in others.
- 3. To understand what the Holy Spirit is doing, you need to learn to listen, open your eyes, and start watching.** Often, physical symptoms can show you where the Holy Spirit is working. This is why many Vineyard churches teach people to pray with their eyes open.
- 4. Once you notice someone experiencing the Holy Spirit, put your hand on them.** Kingdom ministry is physical power that comes from your physical body into others. Often, all you need to do is put your hand on someone and wait. Words are not always necessary. Physical signs often show you what the Holy Spirit is doing.

5. When you pray for healing, wait and watch. Then, pray with authority.

First, invite the Holy Spirit and wait. Then, when the power comes, speak to the condition.

6. Try everything. Don't waste energy asking, "How do I know this is really God?" You'll know it's God when things start happening. Don't second guess yourself; just go for it, and you will see the works of God in your time.

SESSION 2: KINGDOM MINISTRY

Reflection Questions

1. In the video, Steve said, “You can do plenty of ministry in your own power, but Kingdom ministry can only happen through the power of the Holy Spirit.” When we participate in Kingdom ministry, we are not convincing God to do something; God is doing something through us. Can you think of a time in your life when you felt the Holy Spirit empower you? What did it feel like—physically or emotionally?

Or, can you think of a time you witnessed someone experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit? What thoughts or feelings do you remember having as you witnessed it?

2. Can you remember the first time (or a memorable time) that you prayed for someone and witnessed some of the physical things Steve described? Someone being empowered, healed, delivered, or called into more? What was it like to pray for someone and have the Holy Spirit work through you that way? How did that impact your faith? Did it change the way you pray for others?

If you have not yet experienced this, how do you think or feel about praying and ministering in this way?

3. What about this teaching excites you about your life or your ministry in your church? What questions did this teaching raise for you?

4. At the end of his talk, Steve said, “Don’t second guess yourself; just go for it, and you will see the works of God in your time.” Spend a few minutes in prayer. Ask God to tell you more of what this means for you. Write down anything that feels significant to you before you move on.

ACTIVATION ASSIGNMENT

Put This Into Practice

As you begin, **spend a few minutes in prayer**, inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you in this time and space.

Next, **meditate on God's coming Kingdom and the perfect Shalom to come** with one of these two options (or both):

1. Read Revelation 19. This portion of the revelation given to John gives us a picture of the completion of the Kingdom of God. Read slowly and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal something new from this passage.
2. Listen to the song, [Shalom](#), from Vineyard Worship. As you listen to the lyrics, pay attention to what thoughts, experiences, or memories might surface as you listen.

"Then I [John] fell down at his [the angel's] feet to worship him, but he said, 'No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.'" Revelation 19:10

Your testimony of God's work in your life is a prophetic witness for Jesus. You are here for this reason - for God to work through your words, wounds, and welcome.

Think of a time when you experienced God's supernatural empowerment, healing, deliverance, or prophetic call. A time when you experienced the shalom of God's Kingdom break into your life.

It might be a time that felt obvious - like physical healing or deliverance so powerful that you lost physical or emotional control. Or, it might be a time that felt small but also powerful - like when you had a headache, and someone prayed for you, and the headache went away.

Write out the story of this encounter.

Now, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone to share this testimony with. Share your story, and, at the end, offer to pray for that person and to bless them.

After you have shared your testimony, write about that experience.

What was it like to share your story? How did the person respond? Did you pray with them? What was that like for you? For them?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- School of Kingdom Ministry - <https://schoolofkingdomministry.org/>
- “The Story of the Kingdom” Sermon Series, Rich Nathan - <https://www.richnathan.org/>