



HOUSTON NW CHURCH

Kingdom

PEOPLE

FIVE WEEK STUDY

..... KINGDOM :: DISCIPLE :: SOCIETY :: CHURCH

Session 1 :: Framework

Watch

Visit hnw.org/engage to access the Session 1 video. Watch together as a group.

Discuss

1 :: In Genesis 1, we see the world as God intended it. Everything was good. There was perfect relationship between people and God and His creation. **Read Revelation 21:3-5.** What similarities do you see between the Garden before the Fall and the City in Revelation?

2 :: We are living in between these two realities. Jesus entered our fallen world and He showed us how to live and how to pray. **Read Matthew 6:9-10.** How can taking this prayer seriously change the way we see and interact with the world in which we live?

3 :: What could threaten our ability to live with an “on earth as it is in heaven” mindset?

Exercise

A spiritually compartmentalized life sees the sacred word of God as separate and apart from the rest of life. Many Christians believe the sacred work is to be led by an ordained pastor or priest and accomplished through religious programs in a church. This compartmentalized perspective of spirituality and the work of God in the world has prevented many Christians from believing that the work they do every day in the public square is sacred and important to God.

Read through the Kingdom Framework shifts below.

KINGDOM	
Institutional Church Framework	Kingdom Church Framework
Conversion ::: Personal Salvation results in church participation.	Transformation ::: The Gospel results in transformation which influences every area of a believer's life.
Afterlife: A future place; somewhere else.	Here & Now: Present and Future Reality
Believing It ::: Mastering Information	Living it ::: Mastering the life; living the transformed life in the present reality.

DISCIPLE	
Institutional Church Framework	Kingdom Church Framework
Participant ::: Shows up, tithes, maybe serves	Sons/Daughters of God ::: Love, Listen and Obey; following Jesus Christ led by the Holy Spirit
Pastors ::: The preacher is called to do the "religious work.	Believers ::: All believers are called to engage in the multiplication of Christ-followers.
Consumers ::: "What's in it for me?"	Servants ::: "How can I help?"

SOCIETY	
Institutional Church Framework	Kingdom Church Framework
Disengagement ::: See society as the enemy; no concern for the world.	Reconciliation of All Things ::: Grid in which we operate each day.
Destination ::: Salvation's reward and end goal is Heaven	Journey ::: God is bringing Heaven to Earth
Projects ::: Your domain is simply a means of provision	People ::: Your domain is your place of ministry.

Circle or mark any that challenged your thinking. Discuss with your group.

CHURCH	
Institutional Church Framework	Kingdom Church Framework
Building ::: A physical place/building - go to church	People ::: Greek "Ekklesia" - "called out ones" - we ARE the church
Tribal Faith ::: Common practices, traditions, leaders of a group or community unite us	Global Church ::: Revelation 7:9
Denominational Values ::: Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, etc - differences in doctrine and ritual.	Kingdom Principles ::: Not bound by denomination

Action

Look for ways you are compartmentalizing your faith this week. Where do you see yourself passing off responsibility to "the church" or "ministers" instead of being an active participant? When you notice this attitude, stop and pray - ask God to help you to prioritize the kingdom and participate in His work.

Huddle

Break into groups of 2-3 to share 1 or 2 "Kingdom Framework(s)" that challenged your thinking. Pray for one another: ask that God would shift your mindset and give you a kingdom perspective this week.

Session 2 ::: Kingdom

Rewind & Watch

Where did God reveal a need for a kingdom perspective shift as you went about your week?
Log into rightnowmedia.org and access the Session 2 video. Watch together as a group.

Discuss

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1 ::: How should the knowledge that we are His ambassadors guide how we live and interact with the world around us?

2 ::: Why did God choose people to share His message of reconciliation to the world?

3 ::: Take an inventory of all the roles you have. In which role(s) do you spend the majority of your time?

4 ::: What talents, abilities, and skills do you have that are unique to you? Which of these bring you the most fulfillment or joy?

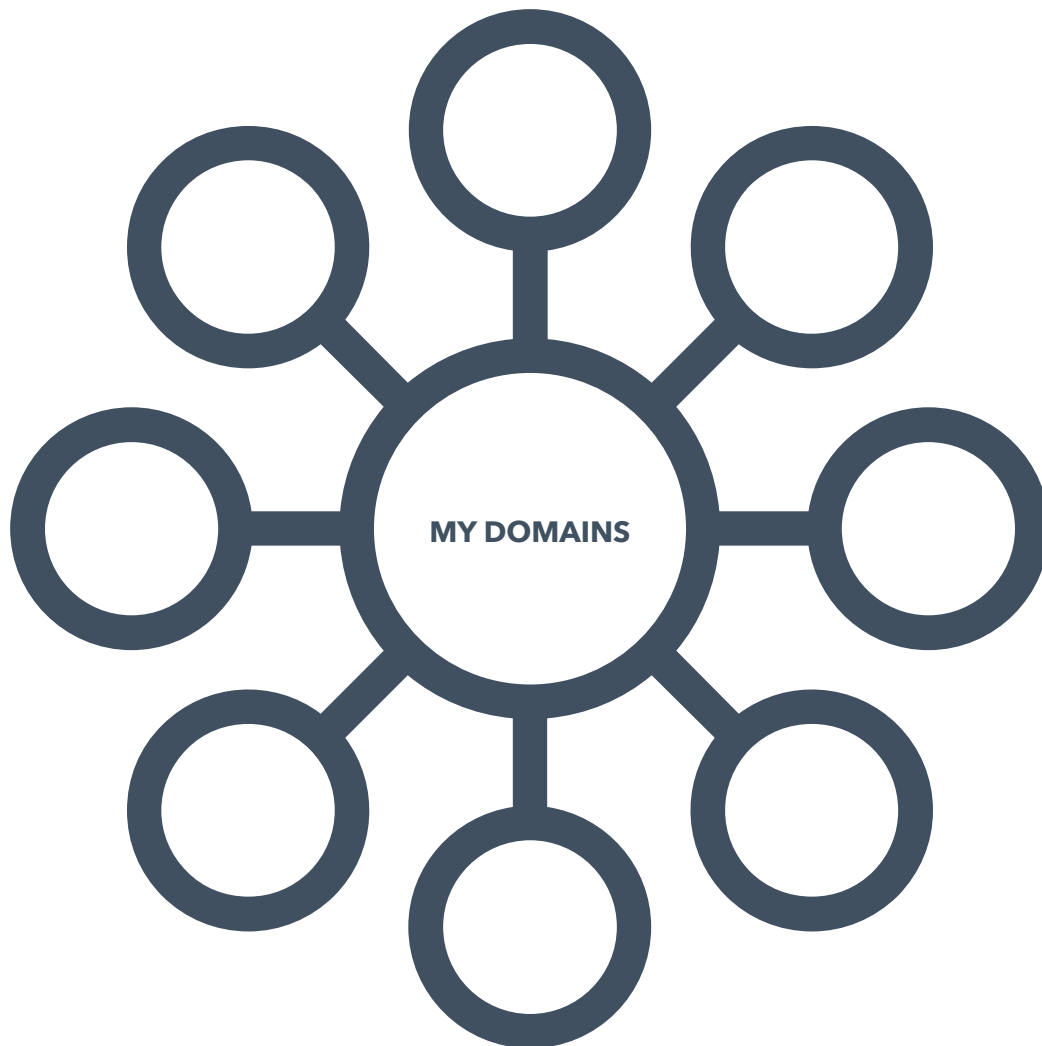
5 ::: What Biblical principles do you see played out the most in your current role in society?

Exercise

Domain (noun) *do·main* ::: the territory or sphere over which one possesses influence.

Domain Map – spend time completing your personal domain map

Identify places in your life where you interact with people. These are your spheres of influence or “domains.” Write the names of these places inside each circle. (Ex. Work, Gym, Home, Church, Neighborhood)



Considering your domain map, what area(s) stands out to you where the Spirit may be prompting you to engage with more intentionally? Circle it.

Action

Each morning, ask God to give you a kingdom perspective of your domains. What is one thing you can begin doing today to align your roles and responsibilities to God's perfect design for them? Be ready to share next week any changes you made.

Huddle

Break into groups of 2-3 to share your domain maps with one another. Then trade maps and pray aloud for the person whose map you received. Ask God to give that person a kingdom perspective in each of their personal domains. Pray specifically for the circled domain(s) and that God would equip them to be His Kingdom ambassador.

Session 3 ::: Disciple

Rewind & Watch

How did having a kingdom perspective of your roles and responsibilities within one of your domains shape your experiences or encounters this past week?

Log into rightnowmedia.org and access the Session 3 video. Watch together as a group.

Discuss

Read Matthew 28:18-20

1 ::: How does this new way of understanding the context of “Go” in the Great Commission change your perception of what it means to make disciples?

2 ::: What are ways you could connect with the other Christians in your spheres of influence (personal domains)?

Our faith is best revealed in community, and community is cultivated by consistently practicing the biblical “one another’s”. Below is a chart with several of these that we find in scripture.

Love / John 13:34	Be at Peace / Mark 9:50	Instruct / Romans 15:14	Honor / Romans 12:10
Be Devoted / Romans 12:10	Greet / 1 Corinthians 16:20	Bear / Galatians 6:2	Encourage / Hebrews 3:13
Live in Harmony / Romans 12:16	Accept / Romans 15:7	Build Up / 1 Thessalonians 5:11	Confess your Sins / James 5:16
Forgive / Ephesians 4:32	Teach / Colossians	Admonish / Colossians 3:16	Submit / Ephesians 5:21
Be Kind / Ephesians 4:32	Have Compassion / Ephesians 4:32	Pray / James 5:16	Be Patient / Ephesians 4:2
Offer Hospitality / 1 Peter 4:9	Serve / Galatians 5:13	Spur On / Hebrews 10:24	Stop Judgement / Romans 14:13

3 :: Which "one anothers" are you already living out in your domains? How?

4 :: Which "one anothers" do you find are missing in your domains? Why?

Exercise

In 5 minutes...

list out every person that comes to mind in your life.

Now...

take 5 minutes to write "Family," "Far," or "Unsure" next to each name.

Use "Family" for everyone you are certain has a relationship with Jesus.

Use "Far" next to every name you know for sure they do not have a relationship with Jesus.

Use "Unsure" for everyone you are uncertain about their relationship with Jesus.

Once you complete the exercise, share with the group what surprised you about your answers. How many people were you able to identify as believers or nonbelievers? How did you make that determination?

Action

Identify a fellow believer in one of your domains that you could partner with in Kingdom work. Make a plan to talk with them. Choose one of your domains that is lacking in biblical “one anothers” and make a plan to begin infusing them into your domain.

Huddle

Break into groups of 2-3 to share and pray. Share a fellow believer that you could potentially partner with or, if you don't know one, pray that God would bring one. Pray that the Spirit would help you practice a “one another” that is missing in one of your domains.

Session 4 :: Society

Rewind & Watch

Has God led you to a believer you can partner with in one of your domains?

How did the conversation with that believer go?

Log into rightnowmedia.org and access the Session 4 video. Watch together as a group.

Discuss

*In simple terms, discipleship is **loving** God, **listening** to His voice, and **obeying** His direction. Over the next year we are focusing our attention as a church on listening to God and faithfully stepping into the divine appointments he makes for us along the way. We want to intentionally look for opportunities to **pray** with people, **care** for their needs, and **share** the good news of what God has done and is doing now in our lives.*

1 :: Spend a moment recounting your personal domains (spheres of influence). Now choose one of those domains and ask God the follow question in personal prayer, "God, what are You calling me to do to make this place (ex. office, neighborhood, etc) more like heaven, and less like hell?" Pray. Listen. Discuss.

2 :: What fears or insecurities are you holding onto that are preventing you from praying, caring, and sharing with people within your domains?

3 :: Is there anyone specific that you know God has already called you to pray with, care for, or share the good news with? Is there another area of obedience within your personal domains that you believe God has called you to, but you just need to follow through?

Exercise

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Brainstorm practical ways you can display each of the different attributes of love within the various domains you inhabit. (ex: Love is patient – I can have self-control in difficult situations at work). Spend the next 5 minutes filling up as many of the attributes as you can with specific examples. Listen to the Spirit's leadings as you write.

Patience

Kindness

Humility

Respect

Unselfishness

Forgiveness

Truthfulness

Trust

Dedication

Share with the group one attribute of love that you felt God illuminated as you worked on this exercise. How do you feel convicted to practice it in the days ahead?

Action

Identify a specific area of brokenness within your domain map. This could be a relationship, a system, a conflict, a practice, etc. How might God be leading you to participate in His mission of reconciling all things within that domain?

Keep 1 Peter 3:15 in mind which says, "but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

What specific ways can you embody hope in your words and actions that would open the door to spiritual conversations?

Huddle

Break into groups of 2-3 to share the area of brokenness you specified. Take time to pray aloud for one another that God would open each person's eyes to see how He is working to reconcile all things to Himself and how they can participate in this. Pray that there would be opportunities for spiritual conversations during the week and that each person would have boldness to engage as the Spirit leads.

Session 5 ::: Church

Rewind & Watch

Where did you encounter brokenness this week?

How were you able to show Christ's love in that situation?

Did it lead to any spiritual conversations?

Log into rightnowmedia.org and access the Session 5 video. Watch together as a group.

Discuss

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1 ::: As spiritual salt, how can we season, preserve, and heal in the places we have been embedded by God?

2 ::: According to our passage, what are the primary functions of light? How are we prone to hide our light? What are the practical implications of doing so?

3 ::: How might an institutional church framework unintentionally prevent us from being the salt and light Jesus has called us to be?

Exercise

In the video, Galen mentioned using our blessing to be a blessing to others, giving us the vision of a Kingdom Minded church intentionally blessing the community around us.

Take 5 minutes to list out as many blessings in your life as you can.

What blessings do you have that could impact the life of someone else if you shared that blessing with them?

Action

To conclude today, we will spend some time taking a few assessments that help us engage as the Church in our community. The first will provide clarity about the spiritual gifts God has given us to bless others with and the second will provide clarity about the hurts of the world our hearts are most inclined to engage.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

If you have never identified your spiritual gifts, take a moment to discover your giftings with a quiz at hnw.org/serve.

Huddle

Break into groups of 2-3 to share your spiritual gifts and where you might be feeling called to engage in your community, city, and world. Pray for one another to be Christ's ambassadors to bring His kingdom here.