



## Group Session 4 Kingdom of God

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### Two cameos from Peter's story

1. What, in your view, is the gospel or good news of Jesus Christ? Make brief notes on your answers to this question. We will return to it later in the session.

2. Read Mark 4:35-41 and Acts 12:1-11. How does Peter react to the possibility of his death in each story?

3. Do you think that Jesus did care about the possibility of them drowning?

4. What change has occurred in Peter in these 11 years for him to behave so differently this time in the presence of a very real threat to his life? Do you think Peter cared at all about his impending execution?

## The Kingdom of God

5. Read Mathew 4:17 and 4:23. What is Jesus proclaiming as the gospel? How does that compare with your understanding of the gospel which you noted earlier?

6. Which aspects of the Lord's Prayer do you think are describing the kingdom of God?

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen*

7. Reflect for a moment on this understanding of God's kingdom. Do you agree with it?

8. Read Luke 18:18-25. What do you think is at the heart of the ruler's kingdom that is preventing him from entering God's kingdom?

9. Do you think it was reasonable of Jesus to criticise the disciples' lack of faith in the midst of a life threatening storm (Mark 4:40)? What was it they lacked faith in?