

## Revealing the Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is the place where God's rule and reign on the earth is done. As trusted rulers in God's Kingdom we are called to demonstrate and declare the rule and reign of God wherever we go, bringing communities to life.

The Kingdom of God can simply be defined as the active rule and reign of God over all that He had made (Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:3) and it was Jesus' and His disciples' central message in the scriptures (Luke 4:43; Matthew 10:7; Acts 1:3). The Kingdom of God reflects all that is true of its King, which is why Jesus taught us to pray "Father... your kingdom come on the earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10)

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion -to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. -Isaiah 61:1-4*

This passage shows us seven key Kingdom themes that we are called to demonstrate in all our areas of influence as we bring communities to life.

1. We bring His **PRESENCE** into every situation: 'The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me'. You carry His presence to bring transformation into desperate places.
2. We bring His **JUSTICE** to the poorest and most marginalised in our culture, 'because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor'. Wherever you find physical, emotional, financial or social injustice, God calls you to bring the Kingdom.
3. We bring His **HEALING** to the sick and broken. 'He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted'. Sickness and disease and brokenness are called to bow to the name of Jesus. We are called to lovingly and confidently lay hands on the sick and those who are suffering.
4. We bring His **SALVATION & DELIVERANCE** to those who don't yet know Jesus, 'to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners'. We carry life to our communities and our places of influence.
5. We bring His **PEACE** wherever there is chaos, anxiety or distress, 'to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour...'. We carry favour from God himself, which releases his peace wherever we go.
6. We bring **COMFORT** wherever there is suffering. '...to comfort all who mourn'. The comfort of God himself is the most sustaining reality.
7. We bring His **JOY** to all who mourn or despair, 'to bestow on them...the oil of joy! instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.' We have received a kingdom of joy, which has become our strength. Spread laughter and thankfulness wherever you go!