



# RCCG OCEANIA

Identity & Purpose

## Kingdom Culture and Earth's Dominion

### At a Glance

#### BIG IDEA

Jesus Christ's message was centered on the Kingdom of Heaven, not religion. This kingdom culture is meant to influence the earth, with humans created to have dominion over it. By embracing this kingdom mindset, believers can fulfill their purpose and expand the influence of heaven on earth.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 5

Genesis 1:26

Ephesians 1:3

Isaiah 45:18

Psalm 115:16

## Key Takeaways

- Jesus' core message was about the Kingdom of Heaven, not establishing a new religion.
- Humans are designed to have dominion over the earth, reflecting God's kingdom.
- The earth is intended to be a colony of heaven, showcasing its culture and values.
- Misunderstanding Jesus' message can lead to a life lacking true purpose.
- Kingdom expansion involves spreading the influence and culture of heaven on earth.

## Introduction

The Kingdom of Heaven is a central theme in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Unlike a traditional religious framework, this kingdom is meant to influence the earth, with humanity playing a crucial role in this divine plan. Understanding this kingdom culture is essential for believers to fulfill their purpose and expand the heavenly influence on earth.

## Scripture Reading

- **Matthew 5** — Jesus introduces the kingdom of heaven, emphasizing its values and blessings.
- **Genesis 1:26** — Highlights humanity's role in having dominion over the earth.
- **Ephesians 1:3** — Affirms that humans were chosen by God before creation, indicating a divine purpose.
- **Isaiah 45:18** — Reveals God's intention for the earth to be inhabited and purposeful.
- **Psalm 115:16** — Distinguishes the heavens as God's domain and the earth as humanity's responsibility.

## Key Points

1. **Jesus' Kingdom Message** — Jesus' teachings focused on the Kingdom of Heaven, offering a new perspective beyond religious practices. His message invites believers to seek the kingdom first, emphasizing values such as humility, mercy, and righteousness. This kingdom is not of this world but is meant to transform it through its principles.
  - Reflect on how the values of the Kingdom of Heaven can be applied in daily life.
  - Prioritize seeking the kingdom in personal decisions and actions.
  - Encourage others to explore the teachings of Jesus about the kingdom.

Scripture: Matthew 5

## **Key Points (cont.)**

- 2. Humanity's Dominion Mandate** — Humans were created to have dominion over the earth, reflecting God's authority and purpose. This dominion is not about exploitation but stewardship, caring for creation as representatives of God's kingdom. Understanding this mandate helps believers align their actions with divine purpose.
- Evaluate personal stewardship of resources and environment.
  - Engage in activities that reflect responsible dominion.
  - Teach others about the biblical perspective of stewardship.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26    Psalm 115:16

## Key Points (cont.)

3. **Earth as Heaven's Colony** — The earth was created to be a reflection of heaven, showcasing its culture and values. This concept challenges believers to live out kingdom principles, transforming societies to mirror heavenly values. It calls for a lifestyle that embodies the peace, justice, and love of the kingdom.

- Identify areas in life where heavenly values can be more fully expressed.
- Participate in community efforts that promote justice and peace.
- Model kingdom culture in interactions with others.

Scripture: Isaiah 45:18

## Key Points (cont.)

4. **Avoiding Misunderstandings** — Misunderstanding Jesus' message can lead to a life without true purpose. Embracing kingdom culture over religious rituals is essential for spiritual fulfillment. This involves a shift from mere tradition to a dynamic relationship with God that influences every aspect of life.
  - Examine personal beliefs to ensure alignment with Jesus' teachings.
  - Seek deeper understanding of kingdom principles through study and prayer.
  - Share insights about the kingdom with others to foster understanding.
5. **Expanding Kingdom Influence** — Kingdoms naturally expand to extend their influence. Believers are called to spread the culture and values of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This expansion is not through force but through love, service, and the demonstration of kingdom principles in everyday life.
  - Engage in acts of service that reflect kingdom values.
  - Cultivate relationships that encourage kingdom growth.
  - Support initiatives that promote the expansion of kingdom influence.

## Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

### Observation

- What are the key values of the Kingdom of Heaven as described in Matthew 5?
- How does Genesis 1:26 describe humanity's role on earth?
- What does Psalm 115:16 say about the relationship between heaven and earth?

### Interpretation

- Why do you think Jesus emphasized the Kingdom of Heaven over religious practices?
- How can the concept of dominion be understood in a way that aligns with God's purpose?
- What does it mean for the earth to be a reflection of heaven?

## Application

- In what ways can you apply the values of the Kingdom of Heaven in your daily life?
- How can you practice responsible stewardship in your community?
- What steps can you take to expand the influence of the Kingdom of Heaven in your surroundings?

## Prayer Focus

- Pray for a deeper understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven and its values.
- Ask for guidance in fulfilling the dominion mandate with stewardship and care.
- Seek strength to live out kingdom principles in daily life and community.

## Next Step

Reflect on how you can embody and expand the influence of the Kingdom of Heaven in your daily life and community.

## Conclusion

The message of the Kingdom of Heaven is a transformative call to live out God's purpose on earth. By understanding and embracing this kingdom culture, believers can fulfill their divine mandate, steward the earth responsibly, and expand the influence of heaven in their communities. This journey requires a commitment to live according to kingdom values, impacting the world for God's glory.