



kick off

In the movie 'City Slickers' a weather beaten cowboy tells a depressed, mid-life crisis ridden city slicker that what matters in life is for each of us to find our "One Thing" - our passion. What do you think is most people's passion?



key verse

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



big idea

Jesus calls his followers to have as their passion in life the kingdom of God. This is a passion that helps them to understand how to shape the focus of their life in every area of their life.



investigate

read Matthew 6.19-34

1. This passage is all about asking the big question about what or who is the passion of your life? What are the alternatives?

2. How radically countercultural is this message in our world? Explain.

3. What's wrong with storing up the treasure on earth?

4. Is what we worry about a good diagnostic test of where our treasure is??

5. In Jesus day many people would have been worrying about if they had enough to eat or enough clothes to wear. We have taken worry about clothes to a different level—to the level of fashion. What does that tell you about our world?

6. What sorts of things do you worry about? How does worry undermine seeking first God's kingdom?

7. First read Miriam's story. What do you relate to? What surprises you?

8. What is one act you can make that declares you are seeking God's kingdom first?

9. Do you think God doesn't care about what we worry about?

10. Worrying isn't a sign of lack of godliness only being dominated by worry. How does Philippians 4.6 help you reshape your thoughts about your worries?



digging deeper

Read
Deut.6.5b
Micah 6.8
Philippians 4.6

Kingdom of Heaven

Is an interesting and at times, for us, confusing term. We think the Kingdom of heaven is God's kingdom in heaven but this is a mistake. Matthew, a Jew, was like many Jews sensitive about using God's name. One way around that was to replace it with the word heaven. So this passage is about the kingdom of the Lord or as Luke puts it in the same passage (Luke 12.31) 'his kingdom' - the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is about his rule not about a place.

No. 1



think & apply

Miriam's story

What challenges you most about seeking the kingdom of God?

Knowing that I have a real relationship with a real God excites me - maintaining this relationship is where I seem to have the difficulty.

What challenges me most is my continual self justification that sleep is far more important than Bible reading and two second 'express prayers' throughout the day is good enough for God.

I'm inspired to enhance the 'God & me thing' by reading more of my Bible, and by being encouraged by those around me to spend quality time (praying) with the God who I claim to rule my life.



scenario 1: You're invited to another function on Sunday—this will mean you'll miss church, two or is it three weeks in a row. What does seeking first the kingdom look like in this situation?

scenario 2: You're late for Bible study. A friend rings up and says that s/he needs to talk to someone. What does seeking first the kingdom look like in this situation?

“evangelism is the perpetual task of the whole church, and not the peculiar hobby of certain of its members”

E. Wilson Carlisle



what can you pray for arising from this study?

&for members of your group...

&for others linked to your group..

&for non-believing friends...

our ministries:

pray this week for KIDS CLUB...
Pray for the leaders as Kids' Club starts up again and that the kind's will show a hunger for knowing God.

partner church:

BLACKTOWN WEST PRESBYTERIAN
Dave and Caron and their family—Alex, Lachlan, Daniel and Elise were with us for three years, they went to Blacktown West PC about four years ago. At the moment David's Mum is dying with cancer. She is a Christians lady. It has all been very sudden and is a shock to everyone. Please pray for Leah that she will find comfort in the Lord. For Chris her husband that they will say important things to each other and for David and the rest of the family that they will have precious times.

world mission:

OUR MISSION PARTNER
Pray for David and Corrine Hawley.



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| | annual general meeting Sunday march 26th | feb 25 | music practice 2.00 pm —12.30 lunch see Amy |
| | | mar 1 | Charlotte Hartin's baptism |
| | | mar 6 | Session/Ministry Leaders Meeting |
| | | mar 26 | Daylight Saving ends |
| | | mar 26 | Annual General Meeting |
| | Christian Groups at Universities contacting Christians and non-Christians—Pray for Andrew and Keryn especially and Student Life | | |



Share with each other on Sunday some ideas about how each of us can be aiming to get our praise for God and not from men (look at scenarios above for some ideas).
Pray for each other in these things—be specific!

for next week read
Matthew 7.13-28

