

Chapter One Study Questions
The Time Has Come: Kingdom Possibilities
January 11, 2026

1. This book began with the claim that most of us, in one way or another, are seeking some type of renewal. The claim continued that many of our churches need new life. Would you agree? Are you looking for a “new thing” in your life? Has the “time come” for a new season of life in your church?
2. What are the first things that come to your mind when you hear the phrase “The Kingdom of God”?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said, “Seek first the kingdom of God...”?
4. Describe the ways your church reflects the kingdom of God.
5. The opening words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark were: “The time has come...”. As you reflect upon your life, what has the time come for? What about your church? What has “the time come” for in your congregation? Discuss this in the group as you are comfortable.
6. Have you found yourself becoming a bit jaded when it comes to renewal programs? When a new possibility comes your way, either individually or to your church are you Eeyore (of Winnie the Pooh fame): “It’ll never work....”? Or, do you still find a little “Tigger” in you, bouncing with the possibilities?
7. The chapter worked to describe the kingdom in the context of new life: Dorothy in Munchkin Land and Jesus turning the water to wine. Describe your impression of what life is like in the kingdom of God. What would water turning to wine look like in your own life? What would that look like in your church for you to open the door to a kingdom that says, “We aren’t in Kansas anymore....”
8. The chapter made the claim that we are all in search of a kingdom, with a king or queen that rules with justice. That assertion is thematic to the Old Testament and in many popular movies today, including “The Lord of the Rings”. How is this theme played out in our and your world today?
9. How comfortable are you in speaking to eternal life? Is it helpful to open the conversation or would you rather move on? C.S. Lewis said it should encourage and inspire us to go to work now. Was he right?

Chapter Two Study Questions
The Time Has Come: The Kingdom is Near...Now What?
January 18, 2026

1. Jesus made a broad public pronouncement about the kingdom. How comfortable are you with this public offering of the “good news”. Describe a time when you were suddenly put in this uncomfortable position of speaking about your faith publicly. Are there other ways you speak to or offer your faith in less public or vocal ways?
2. Does Christianity sometimes seem to you as simply religious advice on how to live or perhaps, how to go to heaven? How does Jesus’ announcement around “good news” change that?
3. Lots of people speak about living Jesus centered lives. Many churches describe themselves as “Christ centered”. What does that mean?
4. Do you think it accurate to describe the contemporary mainline church, or even your own church in the way the chapter characterized the congregation in the book of Hebrews: tired and weary? Does that describe your personal faith?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the admittedly broad and unqualified statement that churches that focus upon Jesus, or upon the Spirit generally do better?
6. Which side of the cloak/body analogy would you say you or your church dwells? Do you lean more towards the body, focusing on the teaching of Jesus and less on the cross? Or, are you more on the evangelical side, focused deliberately on the cross and going to heaven when I die side? Are you a healthy mixture of both/and? Are you offended by the question?
7. The chapter suggested that revival repentance is important. More often, we need volume adjustment repentance. We need to turn down the volume on good things and turn up the volume on the ultimate thing: Jesus and his kingdom. What are some of the things we need to turn down in our own personal lives?
8. What things make you angry? Is that anger righteous? Does that anger point to something that has become ultimate in your life? Is there a way to turn the volume down on that thing that makes you angry?
9. Extend the repentance question now to your congregation. What things need to be turned down in your church? What things need to be turned up?
10. The basic premise of this book is that spiritual renewal can come by looking through the lens of the kingdom of God and seeking this kingdom first. We are two chapters in. How’s it working for you?

Chapter Three Study Questions
The Time Has Come: The “Upside Down” Kingdom
February 1, 2026

1. Name some ways that the kingdom of God is upside down from the common values of our world.
2. Is your life different from the world out there? Is your church different?
3. How would you define discipleship?
4. How has your faith changed you? How did that change happen?
5. How has faith and church shaped your narratives? How do you see the world, yourself, and God differently because of what you believe?
6. The chapter made a bold claim. We likely won't be changed as one hour a week people. Would you agree or disagree?
7. The writer told a story of how his Youth Pastor invited him to think about what he could give up so that he could fill a role in the youth ministry of the church. Would you find the question challenging? Do you need to give some things up to pursue a deeper level of discipleship?
8. Change occurs not by trying harder but by training harder. Would you agree or disagree? Can you describe an instance or a time when participating in spiritual disciplines made a difference in your life?
9. Do you think your church is making a difference? Are people's lives changed because of your church? Is the community different because the church is there?
10. Is your church structured to make an impact on lives and community? If you had a magic wand, what would you change to make it so?

Chapter Four Study Questions
The Time Has Come: Kingdom Diversity
February 8, 2026

1. The chapter opened and closed with reference to the gathering over desegregation in Farmville in 1955. Imagine yourself in that crowd. What would you have done? Would this conversation about the kingdom of God and diversity been helpful?
2. Read Revelation 7:9-17. Take note of the multi-ethnic imagery. Does this change the way you see heaven?
3. The chapter described racism as the demon we have not been able to cast out in this country. Is the language too extreme? Discuss the places we have failed and the places we have done well.
4. Martin Luther King had modest success where others struggled in the battle against racism. Why do you think that is?
5. The chapter posited that it is fear that keeps us from moving forward to embracing different cultures and ethnicities. Name those fears that hold us back.
6. Have you ever had a situation where you were the ethnic minority in the crowd? How did that feel? Was it humbling and was that humility an opportunity for learning?
7. Do you agree that holding a “fear of God” is a good thing? Why or why not?
8. Is there anything you fear when we speak to this multi-ethnic kingdom and world?
9. How does it feel to say that your primary citizenship is not to your earthly nation of origin but instead to the kingdom of God. Does that sound a bit grandiose or is it empowering and freeing?
10. Do you even remember Michael Jackson’s “We Are the World”? It was a celebration of the world’s diversity. Would you agree that the “why” and the “so that” are a bit fuzzy in the lyrics? How does the kingdom of God supply the missing refrain to the song?

Chapter Five Study Questions
The Time Has Come: What About Justice?
February 15, 2026

1. How do you respond when your church deals with justice and political issues publicly, whether it be from the pulpit or in correspondence? Is it a lean in moment where you engage well, or is it a cringe moment as you absorb the tension that is or will be in the air?
2. Two images about justice were offered in the chapter: a thorny cactus and beauty. Which one best describes it for you?
3. Do you know people in your church who have left because of church justice conversations? Could it have been handled better?
4. The thesis of the chapter is that the kingdom of God offers the opportunity to see justice through the lens of beauty. Can you see the beauty of justice? Describe it.
5. Beauty was described through the words of “fairness, duplication, and decentering”. All those were taken from Ellen Scarry’s book. Have these things happened to you when you saw something beautiful? Did you want to duplicate it? Did it take your eyes off yourself? Have you seen something that was unfair that was not beautiful?
6. The chapter argued that justice in the kingdom is beautiful because injustice is not there. God ultimately dismisses it. Does this seem unfair to those who are dismissed? Would you agree that for God to be love, justice must be addressed?
7. We are unjust. That is why Jesus had to go to the cross. In our dealings with social justice, talk about how owning our own injustice is necessary.
8. Another key point was the serving is the means of dispensing this kingdom justice and that is a thing of beauty. Speak to a time where you recently served and how there was beauty in it all.
9. It is difficult to read the Bible and ignore the ongoing conflict between the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God. That pushes us into the world of politics, and justice is in the middle of it all. How does your church handle this battle between these two kingdoms? How does your church handle politics if it handles it at all? Do you wish your church spoke more often about it? Spoke less about it?
10. Justice is beautiful but community is also. Community gives us the ability to address hard things. Have you found that to be true in your community?