

**The True Story of the Whole World, pp 107-122**  
**The Kingdom of God – Part 2**  
**Luke 8:40-56 (and others!)**

Promised Land	Exile and Return	Jesus of Nazareth	The early church
Joshua	Samaria falls	Birth	The Great Commission
Judges	Judah falls	The Kingdom of God	The Holy Spirit
Kings	Exile in Babylon	Suffering and crucifixion	The church together
Saul	Return to Judah	Resurrection and ascension	The church scattered
David	Intertestamental period		Inclusion of Gentiles
Solomon			“Into all the world”
Divided Kingdom			

***In a nutshell....***

*What a challenge! How does one summarize “The Kingdom of God” in nutshell? In the main ideas box, you’ll find listed the sub-headings from the True Story, and several additional themes. That’s a good start. But probably there is no better way to grasp what Jesus is about than to read the reports yourself. Two methods, not mutually exclusive, could be fruitful. 1) Read through one of the ‘Synoptic’ Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and the Gospel of John. 2) Find a version of the Bible which lists Jesus sayings in red, and read those.*

**Main ideas from The Kingdom of God, Part 2**

- Jesus reveals the Kingdom through His Mighty Works
- The sources of Jesus’ power are the Holy Spirit and Prayer
- Jesus gathers a New Community, and a core of 12 disciples
- Jesus welcome outcasts and sinners
- Jesus explains the Kingdom with Parables
- Jesus chooses not to ‘Lord it over’, but to serve, as his way of Kingship
- Jesus goes about ‘doing good’, especially doing mighty works of healing
- Jesus ministry is connected to the old, and yet is something new

**What would you have included in this ‘main idea’ section?**

**Sound familiar? (all to be found in the Sermon on the Mount texts)**

- “you have heard it said, but I say to you”
- “you are salt...yeast....light”
- The Beatitudes....“blessed are...” (and a list follows)
- “Turn the other cheek, love your enemies”
- “be reconciled to your brother”
- “Do not worry”
- “Enter by the narrow gate”
- “do not judge”
- “ask, seek, knock”
- The ‘Lord’s Prayer’
- “Give to the needy”
- “Do not lust”

**Which stories or teachings of Jesus come to you mind for inclusion in this section?**

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**Hymns**

The only spoken prayer used by the Amish is “ Lord’s Prayer” as found in these texts.

(see question 4, “Specific to the texts...” on back side)

**Other Biblical references**

It is of interest that Jesus is seldom actually quoted in the New Testament, outside of the Gospels. This reality is picked up as a discussion on the back side of this study guide.

### General questions for Biblical reflection

1. What do you notice about God in this text?
2. Is there any part of the text that is surprising? Why?
3. What in this text encourages, troubles, surprises, or confuses you?
4. Is there anything in this text you had never noted before? Why do you think it stood out to you this time?
5. How does the action in this passage fit into God's salvation plan?

### Specific to the text for this Sunday

1. What did it mean to the woman to be 'noticed'? Have you ever actually come so close to Jesus that you 'touched the hem of his robe'?
2. What do you make of the woman's emotion of 'trembling' when she was there in front of both the crowd and Jesus? How does the 'crowd' affect your spirituality? Does 'the crowd' assist, or hinder us at MCN in a deeper experience of Jesus?
3. Mixing the 'then and now', if you had been in a sermon response Sunday School class, what would you have liked to discuss with Jesus? Challenge him on? Questions you might have raised.
4. Ponder how it was for Jesus, to be 'almost crushed' by a welcoming crowd, with high expectations.
5. Why the secrecy ("*he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened*"). And how practical was this, as 'the crowd' had accompanied him to the house?
6. Which parts of this story do you identify with?
  - Being in "the crowd"?
  - The fear of Jairus?
  - Being told to not bother Jesus
  - Daring to approach Jesus personally
  - Trembling before Jesus and the crowd
  - The little girl who was healed (what a story to carry with you for life!!)