

WEEK 3

TO READ IN THE BOOK:
CHAPTER 4, WELCOME TO MY LITTLE KINGDOM
CHAPTER 5, DISCOVERING YOUR CIVILIZATION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTERS 4 AND 5

Every human being is participating in building some kingdom, somewhere. We can't avoid it; it's how we are wired.

We were created to pour our lives into the building up of God's kingdom—this is the “something bigger” that each of us longs to be part of. We miss out on this when we focus on building up smaller kingdoms, kingdoms that are not really worthy of our devotion.

We are always working to build some kind of civilization, and we are always pressing the rules and values of that civilization onto others.

Consequently, we have a tendency to not only build our own small kingdoms but also to expect the people around us to live by the rules and to serve the purposes of our small kingdoms.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHILE READING:

How does living for a small kingdom lead to anxiety?

As you look back on your week, what did you spend your time doing? Were the things you spent your time doing the things you *wanted* to spend your time doing?

Do you worry when God's kingdom is threatened? If not, when do you worry?

If we watched the video of your last year, what treasure would we conclude you are chasing? Material possessions, money, good health, secure future, success, acceptance, power, control, comfort?

As you look back on your life, when did you begin to treasure the thing that you treasure today? Why do you think you began to treasure it at that point in your life?

Consider the following continuums. Place an X where you think others would characterize your life.

Whose "good" drives your conversations, desires, and actions?

Your own "good"

The "good" of God's kingdom

Whose righteousness gives you courage and hope as you deal with daily life?

Focus on your own righteousness

Focus on Jesus' righteousness

Whom are you seeking to satisfy?

You live to satisfy yourself.

You live to honor God.

Do you live in humble daily community with God and others,
admitting your need and seeking help?

You seek to be strong.
and in control.

You admit your weakness
and seek help.

Whose glory motivates you to do what you do and to say
what you say?

Your own glory

God's glory

Which of the above characteristics do you believe God is
currently working most in you to change?