



**LIFE GROUP STUDY: THE KINGDOM OF GOD**  
WEEK OF JAN 26



## READING ASSIGNMENT

A. W. Tozer was one of the most gifted American pastors of the 20th century. He wrote more than 40 books throughout his lifetime. Two of his most well-known are *The Knowledge of the Holy* and *The Pursuit of God*. This week, for our Life Group study, we are reading the first chapter from another of his books, *I Call It Heresy*.

The PDF of this chapter is available on our website at [rockypeak.org/disciple](http://rockypeak.org/disciple). If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center during the weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code here.



## GETTING STARTED

This Wednesday and Thursday, we will be gathering in the Worship Center for our next Encounter. We look forward to celebrating all the Lord has done this past year and to this new year as we focus on what it means to be true disciples and learn to live under the leadership of King Jesus.

This three-day study will help prepare our hearts for the Encounter service. We have designed it so that you can complete one section each day, starting on Monday and finishing on Wednesday. However, if your Life Group meets earlier in the week, complete all three days before your Life Group.



Here are the three topics we will explore:

**Day 1:** *Entering the Kingdom: Repentance Required*

**Day 2:** *Entering the Kingdom: The New Birth*

**Day 3:** *Entering the Kingdom: Obeying the King*

As you begin this week of study, spend a few minutes reflecting on the powerful announcement Jesus made when He started His ministry:

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

**Mark 1:14-15**

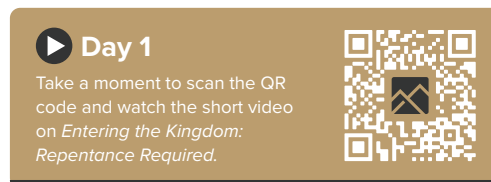


## DAY 1: MONDAY, JANUARY 27

### ENTERING THE KINGDOM: REPENTANCE REQUIRED

Welcome to Day 1! Today we are learning that entering the Kingdom requires repentance. Repentance is more than just asking God to forgive our sins. It requires that we turn from our rebellion against our Creator and surrender to the authority of King Jesus in our lives.

Scan the QR code or visit [rockypeak.org/encounter](https://rockypeak.org/encounter) to watch a short video about *Entering the Kingdom: Repentance Required* and then answer the following questions.



1. Start by reflecting on your own life journey. What are some of the ways in which you have thought about or understood *repentance*?
  - a. Did you see repentance as a *one-time* experience or an *ongoing* journey? Explain.
  - b. What have been some key experiences, environments, or people that influence your understanding of repentance?
2. Next, read **Matthew 4:12-17**, which describes the launch of Jesus' public ministry. Pay particular attention to verse 17 by reading it two or three times.
  - a. In verse 17, Jesus tells us that repentance is required to enter the Kingdom of God. Why do you think we can't experience the Kingdom without repentance?
3. Jesus later sent out His twelve disciples to share the good news of the Kingdom and to call people to enter it through repentance. Read **Mark 6:6b-14**.
  - a. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do if they were not welcomed?



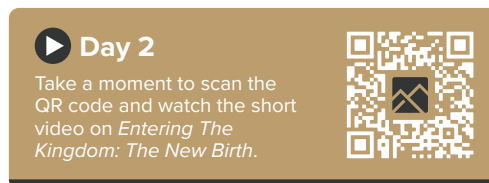
- b. What did His disciples do?
  - c. What do you think those who refused to welcome Jesus and His disciples missed out on?
4. In this week's reading, Tozer warns us of the danger of separating Jesus as *Savior* from Jesus as *Lord*.
- a. When you first heard the gospel, did you understand it as requiring you to both trust Jesus as Savior *and* surrender your life to Him as Lord? What has led you to gain a better understanding of that?
5. Surrendering to Jesus' authority can be difficult, especially in certain seasons or circumstances. But it's also how we experience the Kingdom of God unleashed in our lives.
- a. Can you think of one area of your life where you initially struggled to surrender to God, but eventually did? What led to you surrendering? What have you experienced in that area since (e.g., greater freedom, healing, restoration)?
  - b. Are there any areas in your life right now where you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to repent and surrender? If so, what do you fear would happen when you do surrender?
  - c. Spend a few minutes praying over this. Invite the Spirit to empower you to repent, surrender, and experience the beauty of Jesus as Lord in your life.



## DAY 2: TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 ENTERING THE KINGDOM: THE NEW BIRTH

Entering the Kingdom of God requires a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit—we must be born again of the Spirit. In today's study, we'll see what Jesus teaches about this supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Scan the QR code or visit [rockypeak.org/encounter](https://rockypeak.org/encounter) to watch a short video about Entering the Kingdom: The New Birth and then answer the following questions.



1. Jesus is clear that if we are to enter the kingdom of God, we must be born again of the Holy Spirit. Read **John 3:1-8**. What lessons can you learn from Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus?
2. When we are born again, we receive a new kind of life—eternal life, which is not just the length of life, but a *new quality of life*. Read **John 3:16** & **John 17:3**.
  - a. How would you describe the quality of life you are currently experiencing?



- b. How does it compare to the life Jesus speaks of in these verses?
3. The Apostle John describes how we can know if we have been born again of the Spirit. Read **1 John 3:8-10** and **1 John 5:1**. What are the signs that someone has been born again and received this new life of God?
4. Read the following quote from this week's reading by A.W. Tozer, and then answer the questions:

*These things constitute only the outcropping of the sinful nature, but the root of sin is rebellion against God. Does not the sinner say: "I belong to myself—I owe allegiance to no one unless I choose to give it!" That is the essence of sin. But thankfully, salvation reverses that and restores the former relationship so that the first thing the returning sinner does is to confess: "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants"(Luke 15:18-19).*

*Thus, in repentance, we reverse that relationship, and we fully submit to the Word of God and the will of God, as obedient children. (pp. 9-10)*

- a. Describe the moment you gave your life to Jesus and what led up to that. How have you grown and changed for the better since you gave your life to Him?
- b. Was there a time in your life when Jesus called you to repent and turn to Him, but you chose not to? What was the outcome?
- c. Take a few moments with your heavenly Father. Run to Him and invite Him to transform you to become more like Jesus through the power of His Spirit. Thank Him for allowing you to become born again of the Spirit.

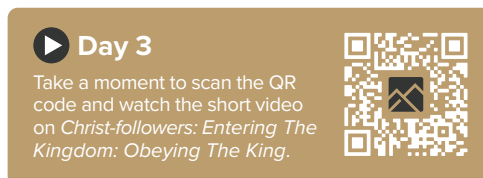


### **DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29**

## **ENTERING THE KINGDOM: OBEYING THE KING**

Who you believe Jesus is matters because it directly impacts your discipleship to Him and the degree to which you will listen and follow His leading in your life. As you dive into today's study, ask Jesus to help you gain a greater understanding of who He is so you can follow Him more deeply into the life He has for you.

Scan the QR code or visit **rockypeak.org/encounter** to watch a short video about Entering the Kingdom: Obeying the King and then answer the following questions.





1. When we read the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, we observe the first disciples' growing understanding of who they recognized Jesus to be, culminating in the epic moment when they encountered Him after His resurrection. In Peter's first public teaching on the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2, we can see how his understanding of who Jesus is has grown as he addresses the gathered crowd. Read **Acts 2:1-36**.
  - a. Who does Peter say Jesus is in verse 36? What is the significance of these titles he uses to describe Jesus?
  - b. Read **Acts 2:37-41**. What does Peter tell the crowd they need to do in response to his message? How does his challenge help you understand what it means to follow Jesus?
  - c. How does Peter's response encourage you as you consider what this means for you and others?
2. Not everyone accepted Peter's message, but many did. How does their response demonstrate their understanding of who Jesus is and what He did?
3. How has your understanding of who Jesus is grown as you have followed Him? How has this impacted how you respond to His leadership in your life?
4. We often use a modern colloquialism when inviting others to follow Jesus: "If you accept Jesus into your heart, you will be saved." While this isn't necessarily wrong, it is incomplete. It focuses heavily on Jesus as Savior without addressing His role as Lord or King. Consider how Paul describes what a more robust declaration of faith requires in **Romans 10:9-13**.
  - a. What are we claiming when we profess with our mouth, "Jesus is Lord?"
  - b. What happens when we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus for us—and surrender to His leadership as our Lord?
5. In **Romans 10:13**, Paul quotes the prophet Joel: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Jesus is our Savior *because* He is Lord. As Lord, He has the authority to deal with our sins and lead us from death into new life. Salvation also encompasses what we are being saved for.
  - a. How have you experienced the benefits of being saved by coming under Jesus' authority as Lord?
  - b. How does acknowledging Jesus as both Savior and Lord encourage you about what He has for you in every area of your life?