



spiritual infant

# DISCIPLE ME

## THE ONE ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM PART 3: CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

### ICEBREAKER: DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Let's start with a fun question: If you could have citizenship in *any* country besides your own, where would it be - and why? Would you pick somewhere peaceful and scenic, like New Zealand? Somewhere full of history, like Italy? Or somewhere exciting and fast-paced, like Japan?

Take a moment to share *what draws you to that place* - the culture, the food, the pace of life, or maybe the values that country represents.

### CONSIDER: THE TENSIONS OF TWO KINGDOMS

Now let's think about this idea a little deeper. Citizenship shapes identity. It determines your rights, your responsibilities, and your sense of belonging. When you hold citizenship in a country, you live under its laws, enjoy its benefits, and represent it wherever you go. That's why Scripture's language is so powerful when it says: "Our citizenship is in heaven." (**Philippians 3:20**)

It means followers of Jesus have a kind of *dual citizenship*. We live in this world - with jobs, families, and responsibilities here - but we ultimately belong to another Kingdom.

- What do you think it looks like to live with that kind of dual identity - being fully present in this world, but loyal to the values of God's Kingdom?
- Where do you sometimes feel the "tension" between the two?

When you decide to follow Jesus, you don't just receive *forgiveness* - you receive *citizenship* in a new Kingdom. You now represent the values, priorities, and ways of that Kingdom wherever you go.

Jesus didn't just come to *get us into heaven*. He came to *bring heaven into us*, so that through our lives, His Kingdom would be visible on earth. The Kingdom of God isn't a place you go; it's a life you live under the reign of Jesus. Kingdom citizens live differently because they serve a different King.

### STUDY: THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF KINGDOM CITIZENS

Here are a few ways Scripture describes what it looks like and what it means to be a citizen in God's Kingdom:

## 1. KINGDOM CITIZENS REFLECT THEIR KING

We represent Jesus in how we speak, work, and treat others. Our actions either point people toward God or push them away. **Read Matthew 5:16**

- What are some everyday ways your light can shine - at work, at home, or in your neighborhood?

## 2. KINGDOM CITIZENS LIVE UNDER A NEW AUTHORITY

Being part of God's Kingdom means Jesus is more than a Savior - He's also our King. We learn to obey His teachings even when they go against the grain of culture or comfort. Submission and obedience to the King comes with being a part of His Kingdom. **Read Luke 6:46-49**

- What's one area of your life that's hard to surrender to Jesus' leadership right now?

## 3. KINGDOM CITIZENS BUILD COMMUNITY, NOT JUST ATTEND CHURCH

We're not just individual followers; we're part of a Kingdom family. Citizens of heaven love, serve, forgive, and carry one another's burdens. **Read Romans 12:5**

- What does it mean to belong - not just believe - in God's Kingdom family?

## 4. KINGDOM CITIZENS BRING GOODNESS WHEREVER THEY GO

We bring peace to conflict, compassion to need, and hope to despair. The world changes when God's people live like His Kingdom has already come. Read **Galatians 6:9-10**.

- What are the things that encourage you most to keep bringing more of God's goodness into His world?

The Kingdom of God doesn't spread through power or politics. It spreads through people who live like Jesus is King. When we love, forgive, serve, and give in His name, we become living previews of the world He's restoring. *"His Kingdom will never end."* - **Luke 1:33**

## CHALLENGE: KINGDOM AMBASSADOR

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.** This week, look for one opportunity to be an ambassador and representative for your King. That could mean: speaking hope to someone discouraged, serving without expecting credit, forgiving someone who wronged you, choosing integrity when no one's watching. When you do, **pray this simple prayer:** *"Lord, help me to live today as a citizen of Your Kingdom -to see people as You see them, to love like You love, and to bring heaven a little closer to earth."*