

RECAP

As you reflect on this last week, what were some of the reflections related to the significance of where God has placed you, your sphere of influence, and the invitation to partner with God?

IDEA 1

The nature of Jesus' Kingdom– actually adds significance not only to our work but also our place in *life* and *location*.....in this short parable of the leaven Jesus is intuitively pulling all people from all stages of life and situations to partner with him in His Kingdom work.

**What about Jesus' Kingdom actually adds significance to our work or place in life?
Has either your stage in life or location ever prevented you from partnering with God?
Who in particular is Jesus talking to in this parable? And why?**

IDEA 2

Efrain framed his message with three main characteristics of Jesus' Kingdom taken from the parable of the leaven. And those are:

- Hidden in nature
- Pervasive in influence
- Cultivated by God

In what ways was Jesus' kingdom hidden during His ministry? Do you think Jesus' Kingdom is to some extent "hidden" today?

How would you describe the paradox of Jesus' influence? And how would this inform your influence to those who don't know Jesus?

What does partnering with God in the work of Kingdom growth look like to you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The Design of God's Kingdom is His ability to use all of us regardless of our age, vocation, influence, illness, our past to bring about growth. Kingdom cultivation demands the obedience of its citizens not prominence. As much as God has invited us – we must center ourselves to invite him. How then do we invite him?

Consider these prayer prompts/questions to invite God to use you in Kingdom expansion:

- **What - is the *hidden* invitation for Kingdom growth?**
- **Where - is the place you want to use my *influence*?**
- **How - are you inviting me to *cultivate* Kingdom growth?**

Discuss these prayer prompts/questions with you group.

APPLICATION

As you think about the main points of this message there is one final thing to keep in mind. God not only wants to use us to impact our spheres of influence but also grow them. Is there a person, stranger, or family Jesus' is calling you to show hospitality to:

Consider inviting this individual or family over to dinner sometime in the near future, to build within yourself the practice of hospitality and Kingdom influence.

Allow yourself to wrestle with the tension of inviting a stranger to your home, but also to see the beauty of this practice.