

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

BROAD OVERVIEW

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

- Sunday afternoon, begin spiritually preparing by prayerfully working through *Unshakeable* throughout the week; prepare to teach using the *Teacher Preparation Guide*.
- Prepare and collect any resources you will use Sunday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING | READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am.
- Use nametags for members and guests and ensure everyone gets a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal*.
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (< 5 MINUTES)
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER** (10-15 MINUTES)
3. **READY THE LEARNERS** (<10 MINUTES)
4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)
5. **GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND** (5 MINUTES)
6. **FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS** (3 MINUTES)

PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- See the attached *Teacher Preparation Guide*.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

1. PREPARE SPIRITUALLY & PREPARE TO TEACH:

- Begin working through the *Teacher Preparation Guide* starting Sunday afternoon or very early in the week. You can find it on the last page of this document. You can also access this (and other) teacher resources at fcbryan.org/unshakeable.
- Prepare yourself spiritually by prayerfully working through the *Unshakeable* Daily Readings throughout the week.
- Teachers are always free to narrow the scope of the lesson by zeroing in on a single truth in the chapter they prayerfully believe best meets the needs of the class. Dig into the scriptures around that truth in *Unshakeable*, or supplement it with other passages the Lord draws you to in your preparation.
- For Week 1, be sure to work through the **Build Up** section on pages 24, 25 in your *Personal Journal*, completing the Roman's Road activity as part of your preparation for Sunday's lesson.

2. PREPARE RESOURCES:

- Ready a cleaned white board with white board markers or a large presentation sheet with permanent markers.
- Make a plan for displaying the learning goal on white board, presentation sheet, powerpoint slide, or handout.
- Have a method nailed down for collecting class prayer requests and distributing them to the class later that day.
- Prepare digital devices to show optional video (you can also print out/show on powerpoint a QR code and have people view the video on their personal phones).
- With painters tape or post-it note, mark a spot on the wall at 5'7"

SUNDAY MORNING

READY THE ROOM

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am. Though members are in the habit of showing up later, guests typically arrive early so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- Warm the environment of the room with music
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives:

GOD WANTS US TO ENTER INTO HIS KINGDOM AND HIS KINGDOM PURPOSE.

- Use nametags for members and guests. Be ready to gather information from class guests using Guest Information Cards or TouchPoint checkin.
- Ensure guests get a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal* when they first arrive. This will give guests something to look at while waiting for members to arrive.
- Engage guests in warm conversation. Introduce them to others in the class and engage them in conversation if it appears welcome.

THE GROUPLIFE HOUR

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (< 5 MINUTES)**. There's a lot to cover. Select a few announcements that are most time sensitive or important. Leave the remaining announcements to class communications during the week.
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)**
 - a. **SHARE INSIGHTS**. Instruct your class: "Pair up with a few people around you. Browse through this week's reading in your *Personal Journal* looking for anything you may have underlined for highlighted.

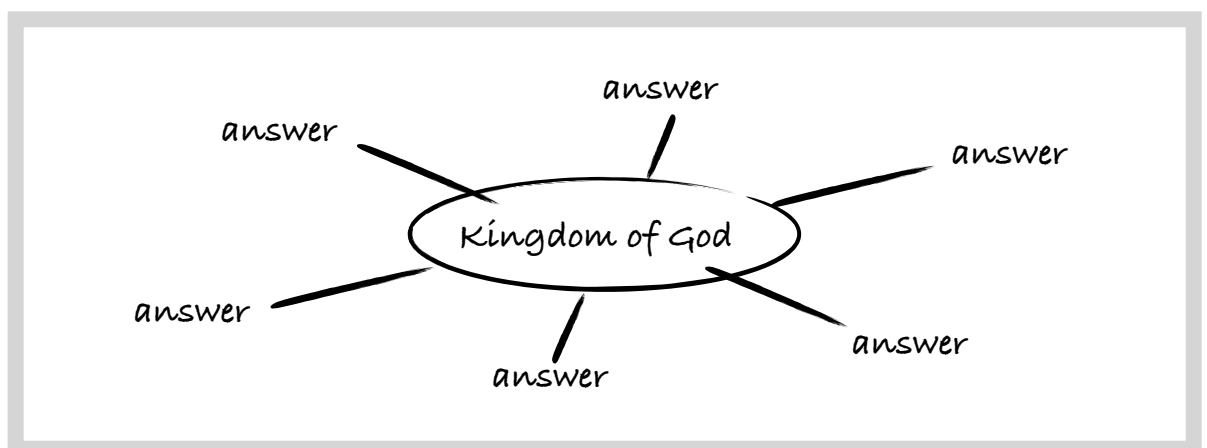
Share something that stood out to you from the Daily Readings this week in your *Unshakeable Personal Journal*."

- b. **SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS.** Share how the group can be praying **for you**. In the interest of time, arrange for prayers **for others** to be collected and shared with the entire class through email.
- c. **REPORT INSIGHTS TO CLASS.** Ask someone from a few groups to share with the class something from the Daily Readings that was shared in their group.
- d. **UNSHAKEABLE REMINDERS:** Encourage the class that in addition to GroupLife, to read the Daily Readings and attend our Worship Service every week. Urge them to bring their *Personal Journal* with them each week. Encourage them to "just read today's reading" if they fall behind, and leave any catchup work to Day 6, if desired. Encourage them to not get bogged down on being perfectly consistent; Satan will surely use that against them.

3. **READY THE LEARNERS (<10 MINUTES)**

Engage the class member's HEART & MIND. Debate, illustrate, brainstorm, share a surprising/humorous/controversial quote or question, or tell a personal story you will use to begin your lesson. Something that activates the mind or heart readies the member for learning better than jumping into facts.

- a. **ASK:** What are some words or images that come to mind when I say "the kingdom of God"? Listen for responses. Write their answers on a white board (here's one example using a "spider graph"):



- b. **AFFIRM** them for answering; they will likely describe various aspects of God's kingdom. **Say:** Everything listed on this spider graph are descriptions of different aspects of the kingdom of God as it is currently understood. Today, we are going to be taking a look at God's kingdom and our role in it. [Repeat the learning goal:] "God wants us to enter into His kingdom and His kingdom purpose."
- c. **PRAY:** Pause to pray, leading your class to be open hearted and attentive to God's truth, how it applies to our lives, and how He wants us to respond. Ask for wisdom and understanding that doesn't puff us up with pride. Ask for correction where there is error or misunderstanding. Ask for what we learn today to compel us to more deeply love God and all people with whom we come in contact.

4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)

Engage the class member's HEART, MIND, & HANDS. As you teach the facts of the lesson, you are teaching the mind, and answering the question, "What is true?". We must also teach the heart, answering the question, "How should I value this truth?". Finally, we must give attention to the hands, answering the question, "What must I do with this truth that I now value?"

- a. **DEFINE.** A simple definition of the "kingdom of God" is "where God rules as King". Let's look at 1 Cor. 15:22b-28 together, where Paul describes God ruling as King.

*... "in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to our God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must **reign until** He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is clear that this excludes the Father who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected*

all things to Him, so that God may be all in all."

b. UNPACK the passage: What's going on here? The context of this passage is Paul talking about where believers go when they die, whether/when/how they are resurrected to eternal life, etc. But he answers those questions about us crossing over into eternity through the lens of the kingdom of God. **Explain the sequence of events** Paul uses (a whiteboard, powerpoint slide, or prepared handout of this would be helpful for the learner):

- 1) Christ resurrected first (happened 2000 years ago)
- 2) The current reign of Christ: **"reign until"** (will explain)
- 3) Those who belong to Christ resurrected when He returns (still hasn't happened)
- 4) "the end" – after Jesus has conquered all rule and authority and power to be subject to Himself, Jesus will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. "For He must reign until then, putting every enemy under his feet, and finally, death".

"Reign Until" is a period of time between the resurrection of Jesus and His return in which He is reigning at the right hand of God, actively extending His kingdom reign in us, and to more and more people. Jesus is actively reigning as King now subduing all that is not surrendered to His Lordship.

"Until then" is the period of time when He has all authority, but not everyone recognizes or yields to it. The kingdom of God is *different* than the sovereignty of God. God reigns over everything in the cosmos, in the sense that He has authority over everything as Creator, everything (even sin) must be allowed by Him, and that He ensures that everything will unfold toward its appointed end. God is all-powerful and He does whatever pleases Him. He is bound by nothing external; His activity is only bound by His own perfect characteristics such as love, justice, righteousness, holiness, mercy, and wisdom. Nothing can thwart the will of God. This is sovereignty. God is King, whether you believe it or not.

The kingdom, in contrast, pertains to who has bent their knee and willingly surrendered to His sovereignty. God is King, and those that acknowledge it live under His rule and reign; they don't ignore it or fight against it. They are citizens of God's kingdom. We belong to Him and are progressively being remade to surrender more fully to His Lordship.

Sovereignty = He is King. Period.

Kingdom reign = when He is embraced as King

- c. APPLY the passage: Have the group turn to page 16 of the *Personal Journal*. Ask a volunteer to read the last full paragraph. Consider the statement "God's Kingdom agenda is to restore and extend the rule and reign of Jesus" and the one that preceded it "His call is for us to do a complete 180° turn away from every [other] kingdom agenda".
- 1) State: God's kingdom is the manifestation of the rule and reign of Christ in creation, starting with those He has redeemed. Ask: Practically speaking, HOW is Jesus seeking to reign in our lives?
 - (a) What does His reign mean for your eternal destination?
 - (b) What does His reign mean for you on a daily basis?
 - (c) What does His reign mean for your finances?
 - (d) What does His reign mean for your home relationships?
 - (e) What does His reign mean for how you influence believers?
 - (f) What does His reign mean for how you influence unbelievers?
 - 2) After discussion as a class the answers to the questions above, say: Living in God's kingdom really is black and white: Jesus is either first or He isn't. When Jesus is first, that means that we are putting His kingdom first.
 - 3) Have a class member read another verse that speaks to the priority that God's kingdom should have in our lives Matthew 6:33. What priority should the rule and reign of Jesus have in our lives?
 - 4) Ask: Is it possible to WANT to be forgiven, without desiring the rule and reign of Christ? Why or why not? Have the group turn to page

31 together. **Have someone read the quote in the callout box.** Restate the quote in other words: *God's offer of forgiveness is the starting point of restoring your relationship with God as King of your heart and every aspect of your life.*

1) There is only one way to become a citizen of God's kingdom

- (a) Read last paragraph on page 26 "Everyone begins outside... progressively recalibrated to the lordship of Jesus"
- (b) You cannot assume you are a member of the kingdom by membership in a group of other people. You are not a member of the kingdom by membership in a Christian culture (the Bible belt), a Christian family, a GroupLife class, or First Baptist Church.
- (c) You can't do enough good to outweigh all the ways that you have rejected the active Lordship of Jesus throughout your life.
- (d) Begin sharing the plan of salvation using the Romans Road
For all have sinned (Romans 3:23) – sometimes it's difficult for people to understand that they are "bad" when comparing themselves to other bad people. It's hard for them to understand their sins place them under God's judgment.

To illustrate this, put your hand up against the wall about 3 feet high. Ask people to raise their hand if they think they could jump onto a platform this high. Then raise it 6 inches and ask. Another 6, another 6, and another 6. Now show them where 5'7" is marked on the wall. Ask if anyone can jump that high. Tell them this is the world record. Show them the video of the vertical jump record being set with the following QR code.

Say: when we compare ourselves to others, it's easy to think we're not that bad because we are more righteous than other people we know. God's standard, however, is not 5'7". The gap between our righteousness, no matter what we've accomplished, is more like trying to jump off the floor onto the

surface of the moon. All of us are essentially equal in how far we've fallen from God's righteous standard.

- (e) Continue sharing the remainder of the Roman's Road. Give an opportunity for anyone in the room who does not know Jesus to receive Him (pray an example of a sinner receiving Jesus by faith).
- (f) Read a story by Dwight Moody's Incident of the Civil War <https://bibletruthpublishers.com/an-incident-of-the-civil-war/dwight-lyman-moody/moodys-stories/dwight-l-moody/la137809>. It's a touching story about salvation that comes only through Jesus.

5. GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND (5-10 minutes)

Engage the class member's WORSHIP ("Knowing what I must do with this truth I now value, how will I respond to the Lord?")

- a. Explain that for the last few minutes of the class, you want them to take a moment to write down what God emphasized to you today in GroupLife in your *Personal Journal* (or cellphone, if you don't have it).
- b. Write down any specific, actionable plans required to respond with full trust and obedience to what God emphasized to you.

ANCHORING RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

Gospel encouragement: This does not need to be explicitly stated (though there may be times you elect to), but as you guide members to respond to these lessons, you may need to in one way or another remind the class that God never calls us to live "for" Him, apart from Him. When we abide in Christ by walking in the Spirit, He enables us to live far above what our self-righteousness observance of rules can accomplish. God is able to produce righteousness in us that brings Him glory when we walk by faith.

What does a gospel-centered response look like?

- 1) Pray to God about the response He wants you to make.
- 2) Confess that you're unable to do this apart from Him.

- 3) Confess that since you have been set free from the power of sin, it no longer has power over you.
- 4) Ask for God's supernatural help.
- 5) Walk in obedience with unbroken prayer and dependence on God.
- 6) If you slip, that indicates you have slipped back into self-reliance. Enter into God's presence to receive grace and mercy, knowing you are welcome there based on the work of Jesus for you.
- 7) Begin again with dependence on God and confidence that He is eager to cleanse, restore, and abide with you as you begin again.

6. FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS (3 MINUTES)

- a. **Prayer Exercise.** You may voice a heart-felt, surrendering prayer to close. Or ask a member that walk with Jesus to. Better yet, lead the class through a prayer prompt related to the lesson. Prompt them so THEY are praying, rather than listening to someone pray.
- b. Encourage the group, again, to utilize their *Personal Journal* throughout the week and to bring it with them weekly.
- c. Remind them of any opportunities to connect outside of class planned by the class or provided by the church.

UNSHAKEABLE

Teacher Preparation Guide

Teaching directly from the UNSHAKEABLE Personal Journal is **not** advised.
Use this Preparation Guide to develop your own Custom Teaching Plan.
All teacher resources online at FBCBRYAN.ORG/UNSHAKEABLE

1. Sunday afternoon, or very early in the week

1. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide your preparation without any hindrance.
2. Quickly read through all of this Week's Daily Readings in one sitting.
3. With a highlighter, mark the key Scripture passages in this Week's Lesson.

2. Monday - Friday

1. Every day, quickly re-read the highlighted Scripture passages.
2. Read through one Daily Reading per day, prayerfully working through it and completing the questions.
3. Throughout your preparation, make notes of any supporting scriptures, truths, illustrations, or questions the Lord brings to mind.

3. On or before Wednesday

1. Prayerfully read through this Week's *Suggested Teaching Plan*.

4. By Saturday

1. Skim all of this week's Daily Readings and *Suggested Teaching Plan* for any notes you have taken throughout the week.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's directing as you narrow your focus and finalize your preparation. You do not have to re-teach all the content of the Daily Readings; zero in on specific content or themes as He leads.
3. Use the *Custom Teaching Plan* document to develop a teaching plan for Sunday morning GroupLife based on how the Lord has led your devotional and preparation time.