

# Expressing the Kingdom of God!!

## Session 1 God's Call to Take the Land

*Introduction : The promised land was to be the land which is now called Israel and Palestine. It was to be a place of blessing – a land flowing with good things such as Milk and Honey. It was also a place from God's people would not be blessed but also a place from which all nations(all the world) will be blessed (Genesis 12 1-3)  
At the time of Joshua God's was calling his people into the land He had promised to Abraham and then to Moses. However it is inhabited with other people who are opposed to God's way and His people. Joshua faced with a big challenge. Those people were described as giants and they weren't going to help Joshua settle in the land.*

### Read Joshua 1 1-9

How would Joshua feel ? What would be the challenges for Joshua ?

Do you think God is calling us to take Leeds for him?

In taking Leeds for God what are the challenges ? who are the giants?

How do we feel about them?

*Verse 3 "I will give you every place you put your foot"*

*God promises Joshua He will take the land wherever Joshua walks .Even though there are giants Joshua receives a promise from God that God is with him*

In the verses 6-9 What does God instruct Joshua to be and to do?

Exercise – on a big sheet of paper draw an outline of your city or your school. Ask people to think about the things which take courage which we need to do ? and about the things which discourage us ? get them to right them down on the map.

Read verse 8 – ask them to find or think of Bible verses which will give them courage or help them with those things which discourage them.

*Put some music get people to reflect on some of the verses written down. Ask them to take about a verse which spoke to them and challenge them to take away a verse to memorize for next week*

Get people to pray for each other in areas where they need courage or where the feel discouraged?

## Session 2

# God's Kingdom breaking in!!

### Introduction

*Jesus talks a lot about the kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. In the Lords prayer he asks us to pray "your kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven"*

What do you think heaven on earth looks like?

Ask people to try and imagine a scene and act it out.

*Before Jesus, God's people were WAITING for a 'King' to come, when Jesus comes again we are promised His Kingdom will be FULLY ESTABLISHED.*

Read Rev 21 v 1-5. How is this image of God's kingdom like the one we acted out?

*During Jesus' time he commanded the Disciples to preach the kingdom of God is near. Luke 10 v 9. He says God's kingdom is advancing Mat 11v12. Another way of putting it Ever since John the Baptist announced the coming of Jesus God's kingdom is BREAKING IN or BREAKING OUT on earth.*

Can you think of an illustration from nature or from a film or from life which demonstrates this idea of the kingdom Breaking out ? can you think of situation where you have felt so sure God's kingdom is near?

Read Mat 28 –18-20

What is our job and who has power to help us make it happen?

When Jesus says he has "All authority in heaven and earth" Where exactly does Jesus say he has power? Ask people to name places Jesus has power.

*Get people to think back to the Heaven on earth sketches. If it is our job to pray for God's will on earth(have heaven on earth) and to make disciples of all nations (make people of his kingdom)*

Create a list of ways in which we can proclaim God's kingdom to the world?

With your list – discuss – which ways do you think are most effective of making heaven come to earth?

### Session 3

### **The Narrow gate**

Read Mat 7 v13-14

The narrow gate represents choices we have to make in our lives.

*@the celebration Duncan talked about a time shortly after he came to Leeds when things weren't going to plan and he thought it better he went back to Sheffield but God said stay in Leeds.*

Think of some difficult choices you have to make to follow Jesus?

What does the Bible say are the result of those difficult choices, of going through the narrow gate ? Does that ring true in our life experience?

*Either Find video or a story of someone who made a very tough choice for God and show or tell it to the group*

How does their story inspire ?

Can you think of examples of others who have inspired you by making difficult choices ?

Often when we are thinking about what we should do in a situation it is easier to say the right thing than it is to actually do it when we are faced with a particular tough choice. Discuss what things can you do to help you make the right choices at the right time?

Tell a member of the cell one thing you think you need to and get them to make you a card which you carry around in you wallet as a reminder to you through out the week.