

TALKING POINTS

STARTING OVER - REGATHERING

LEANING IN

As we start our regathering process, it is important for us to ask the question: What is essential to our mission as a church and a people of faith?

First, we have to be Kingdom Minded - it was Jesus' central message. What is the gospel of the kingdom? It is the fact God moved in the world in a new and unprecedented way. It is the presence of God on the planet here among us.

Jesus was clear the Kingdom of God was not just a future event where He will return (and He will), but something we could engage in *now*. It is the rule of God on this planet, *right now* and we are to help usher it in. Two clear indicators of our commitment to the Kingdom of God would be our bank accounts and our calendars.

Read Mark 1:14

Which kingdom have you found yourself putting more effort into?

LIVING IT OUT

Since we're all building a kingdom of one kind or another, it's essential we need to live for the kingdom of God today - by making it the *most important thing* in our lives today. Here are four additional essentials we must acquire to accomplish this goal:

Be Externally Focused - just as Jesus sought out and showed compassion to the outcasts of His culture, we have to do the same with ours. Even the difficult ones.

Read Matthew 25:34-40

Who are the outcasts (and difficult ones) of our culture today and how can we better reach out to them?

Be Culturally Relevant - because we have to be a bridge between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of man, a church which can't relate to the culture around them loses its relevance, value and voice to the community.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

How can you become "all things to all people" in today's divisive culture?

Be Grace Based - we must strive to love each other like Jesus does. This means extending grace, forgiveness and mercy whenever possible.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-10, Mark 12:30-31, Ephesians 4:32

Are there people in our lives we can show additional grace to right now?

Be Biblically Founded - the Bible is the guiding light, providing **Instruction** as to who God is and how to live, **Correction** about how *not* to live, **Promises** of God which provide hope and a **Context** for everything in life from suffering to joy.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

How can you make the bible more of a "guiding light" in your life?