

GO AND PREACH GOD'S KINGDOM

THE NATURE OF
GOD'S KINGDOM

by
DOTA

MANUAL 9 FOR GROUP LEADERS

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INTRODUCTION

What is the gospel of the kingdom?

The gospel of the kingdom is the good news about the kingship of God. In general the kingdom of God is the kingship or sovereign reign of God over everyone and everything, from eternity to eternity (Psalm 24:1; 145:13). In particular, the kingdom of God is the kingship or sovereign reign of God through Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). The kingdom is based on the completed work of salvation of Christ (Acts 2:36) and the application of that work in believers through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The kingdom is recognised in the hearts of believers (Luke 17:20-21) and operative in their lives. The kingdom of God is manifested in four visible areas: in the complete salvation of believers from beginning to end (Mark 10:25-26), in the constitution of believers as one Church on earth (Matthew 16:18-19), in the good works (influence) of believers in every area of human society (Matthew 25:34-40), and finally in the redeemed universe or the new heaven and the new earth at the second coming of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:24-26).

When is the gospel of the kingdom preached?

At his first coming, Jesus Christ preached the gospel of the kingdom (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:23). Jesus spoke more than fifty parables and most of them are about the kingdom of God. In these parables, Jesus teaches us about the character of the kingdom of God and especially how to enter into the kingdom of God and how to live in the kingdom of God in the culture of the kingdom. Finally, Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). So, after the establishment of the Christian Church on earth, Christians preach the gospel of the kingdom (Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:24-25; 28:23,31). The task of all Christians today is preaching the kingship of Jesus Christ, practising what they preach (Matthew 23:3) and changing their culture into the culture of the kingdom of God.

Multiplying equipped labourers and leaders

According to Jesus "the need of the hour" in the kingdom of God is the multiplication of the number of equipped labourers and leaders. On the one hand: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest field" (Matthew 9:38). On the other hand: "Equip a number of Christians to become workers in the Church of Christ" (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 10:7; Ephesians 4:12). Appoint them as discipleship group leaders, house church leaders, elders of churches and emissaries (planters of new house churches)!

The DOTA course makes the preaching and teaching of God's kingdom practical by giving the group leader, preacher or teacher the following:

1. Each of the four manuals contains 12 lessons that can be completed in three months (one lesson a week) or in six months (one lesson every 14 days). In the intensive course a manual can be completed in six days.
2. Important Bible references help the students to get to know Christ, his kingdom and the Bible.
3. The group leader should make use of the questions and let students read the Bible passages before discussion.
4. The "notes" give a summary of the answer to each question. This serves as a guideline for the group leader.
5. The training course teaches practical methods to preach and teach God's kingdom and to study the letter to the Romans alone or in a small group.
6. Each lesson includes a preparation to do at home, which may be handed out to the students.
7. The training course is easy to transfer to others. After completion of each course of 12 lessons, those students, who will teach the training course to another small group of people, may receive a copy of this manual for group leaders.

Our prayer is that the Lord will rapidly increase the number of discipleship group leaders, house church leaders (elders, preachers and teachers in your own area) and emissaries and leaders that are sent out to other places! Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are still few" (Matthew 9:37)! May the Lord be glorified! "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen" (Romans 11:36).

DOTA (The name originated in 1993-05-10 when the course was mainly broadcasted by radio as "Discipleship training On The Air", a series of radio broadcasts and training seminars in China). 1996 (First edition). 2016 (Fourth revised edition).

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RECOMMENDATION

The materials are intended to be widely used and to be a blessing to many. But because the purpose of the 4 manuals for group leaders on preaching God's kingdom is to train or equip Christians, it is recommended that only group leaders of this course make exact copies of the 4 manuals. A student should only receive an exact copy of a lesson or of a manual after he has completed the lesson or the course of 12 lessons and only when he will teach it to another person or small group of people.