**The Power of Kingdom Relationships**

**Theme:** Church Membership & Understanding the Church about the Kingdom of God

**Key Passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Lesson Outline**

**1. Introduction: What is the Church? What is the Kingdom?**

* **Objective:** Establish the distinction between the Church and the Kingdom.
* **Illustration:** **Embassy & Country** – The Church is an **embassy** representing the Kingdom.
* **Discussion Starter:** "What do you think is the difference between being part of the Church and being part of God's Kingdom?"

**2. The Biblical Foundation of Church Membership**

📖 **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** – The Church is the body of Christ.

📖 **Ephesians 4:16** – Every member contributes to the Church’s Church’s growth.

📖 **Acts 2:42-47** – Early church unity, fellowship, and mission model.

💡 **Key Point:**

* The **Church** is **the gathered people of God**, existing locally and universally.
* The **Church is visible and structured** for worship, discipleship, and mission.
* **Being a member means being actively involved, not just attending.**

❓ **Reflection Question:** *What does it mean to belong to the Church beyond just attending services?*

**3. The Kingdom of God: Bigger Than the Church**

📖 **Matthew 6:10** – "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done."

📖 **Luke 17:20-21** – The Kingdom is already present in believers.

📖 **Revelation 11:15** – The future fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

💡 **Key Point:**

* The **Kingdom** is **God's reign over all things**, present and future.
* The **Church is not the Kingdom** but **an instrument that expands it.**
* The **Kingdom will last forever**, but the Church as an institution is temporary.

🔄 **How They Intertwine:**

* The Church **manifests** the Kingdom by preaching, discipline, and serving.
* The Church **is the instrument** through which the Kingdom advances.

❓ **Reflection Question:** *How does being an active Church member help spread God's Kingdom?*

**4. The Role of Church Members in the Kingdom**

📖 **1 Corinthians 12:26** – We are different but work together.

📖 **1 Corinthians 13** – Love is the foundation of unity.

📖 **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** – Respect and work with church leadership.

📖 **Malachi 3:10-12** – Financial stewardship in the Kingdom.

💡 **Key Point:**

* Membership means **serving, giving, and growing in faith**.
* **Spiritual gifts** are given to build the Church and expand the Kingdom.
* The **health of the Church** affects the advancement of God's Kingdom.

❓ **Discussion Question:** *How can you actively contribute to the Church and the Kingdom?*

**5. Practical Application & Commitment**

💡 **How Can You Live as a Kingdom-Minded Church Member?**

✅ Seek first the Kingdom (**Matthew 6:33**).

✅ Be a faithful Church member through **serving, giving, and discipleship**.

✅ Be **mission-minded** – the Church is not the final goal; it's a tool to expand God's Kingdom.

✅ **Find your role in the Church** to fulfill your part in God's plan.

❓ **Group Discussion:**

* What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your role in the Church?
* How can your Church more effectively demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world?

📌 **Challenge:** Identify how you can serve in your Church that helps advance God's Kingdom.

**Word Study Section**

**1. Church (Ekklesia – ἐκκλησία)** – The called-out assembly of believers (**Matthew 16:18**).

**2. Body (Sōma – σῶμα)** – The unified organism of believers in Christ (**1 Cor. 12:12**).

**3. Member (Melos – μέλος)** – An individual part of the body with a unique function (**Romans 12:4-5**).

**4. Kingdom (Basileia – βασιλεία)** – God's rule over all things (**Psalm 103:19**).

**5. Unity (Henotēs – ἑνότης)** – Oneness in purpose and spirit (**Ephesians 4:3**).

**6. Love (Agape – ἀγάπη)** – Unconditional, sacrificial love (**1 Cor. 13**).

**Key Scriptures**

📖 **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** – The Church as the body of Christ.

📖 **Ephesians 4:16** – Every member plays a part in God's plan.

📖 **Matthew 6:33** – Seek first the Kingdom of God.

📖 **Luke 17:21** – The Kingdom is within us.

📖 **Revelation 11:15** – The Kingdom will be fully realized.

📖 **Matthew 28:19-20** – The Church's mission to expand the Kingdom.