“We all have a choice in this life; we can choose to be small and enjoy all of the wonders of being loved by Almighty God, or we can choose to be big in our own eyes and miss the joy of being cared for by our Father. It is in the simple place of believing that Almighty God is really my Dad that I have discovered growing down is the real pathway to true greatness.”

– Barry Adams, The Kingdom Belongs to the Little Children

Proverbs 3:5-6
Matthew 18:1-5
Luke 9:46

Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 6:9-18
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Colossians 1:27
1 Corinthians 2:16
Index Card: Describe a strong memory you have that brings up negative emotions in you.

This Week:

- Ask the Father what His perspective is in regard to that memory and you in particular?
- Ask Jesus to show you where He was in that moment/memory?
- Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants you to know or see about the Lord in regard to that painful memory?
- Record what you see and/or hear.

Further Study:

1. Read Matthew 1-4

   *All through the semester, as you read through the gospel books, ask yourself every single time – what do these verses or chapters say or show me about Jesus? Journal about those things, His perspective, what He said and what He did.

2. Skim through the entire book of Matthew and underline, circle or highlight every word or phrase, “kingdom, kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven.” Count how many times the Kingdom is mentioned in Matthew.

3. Choose some or all of the passages and read about the Kingdom in its context in Scripture.

4. Record/journal about what you learned about the Kingdom in the book of Matthew.

For Example: The first time “kingdom of heaven” shows up in the first gospel book is Matthew 3:1-11. After reading it, I might make the following list:

The kingdom of heaven:

- is connected to repentance
  I know that means to turn and go the other way, to change one’s mind. So, the kingdom of heaven is not the kingdom I know, I will need to think differently to be about the kingdom of heaven.
- has come near
  John is prophesying that Jesus will be bringing His kingdom from above near to us on earth. He’ll be “bringing up there, down here” as Pastor Dan says.
• has a baptism of WATER and a baptism of the HOLY SPIRIT  
  (And then I’d do some cross referencing for both water baptism and baptism of the Holy Spirit by using my concordance.)

✓ I might also read the kingdom passages in other versions of the Bible.  
  www.biblegateway.com  
✓ I might look up word meanings in www.classicnetbible.org or www.blueletterbible.org

It would be awesome if you tell us that you might need some help learning how to study your Bible! You can email sherilyn@calvarysc.org

5. What is it about heaven that you long for on earth? Is it joy, no more crying, peace (no crime), perfect love or perfect health, uninterrupted worship, the presence of the Lord, restored health, etc. One thing I long for never ever saying goodbye again. Heaven’s perspective is almost always the opposite of the perspective in the world. Jesus prayed to the Father, “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” So, how does Jesus bringing heaven to earth change your perspective?

Example 1: I long for the permanency of all things in heaven, nothing ever changing. So because Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to earth, I can view my heartache and hardship as temporary here on earth. I can receive God’s faithful love when others let me down or when life is just difficult and hurtful or I feel rejected. I can tell myself God’s truth that Jesus will never ever leave me or change His mind about me.

Example 2: I long for constant joy, the language of heaven. So because Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to earth, I can choose joy in the middle of sad or challenging circumstances. I can choose joy when those around me are negative I can pray for an atmosphere of joy to fill my mind, my home or my office, the circumstances I find myself in no matter how frightening or threatening.

*If you don’t know much about heaven, go to the Concordance in the back of your Bible to look up and read verses on heaven.