

## Questions:

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1. Is it hard to believe sometimes that God is in charge in this world? Explain your answer. Why do you think God allows evil to take place in this world?
2. The Dictionary of Bible Themes defines the Kingdom of Heaven as, "The kingly rule of God in the lives of people and nations. It refers to the recognition of the authority of God, rather than a definite geographical area, and begins with the ministry of Jesus Christ." Based on this definition, how is God's kingdom different from the kingdoms of this world?
3. Read Matthew 13:31-33. In what ways is the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed or yeast? How would you explain what these parables mean? What are some of our responsibilities as citizens of God's kingdom?
4. Like yeast permeates flour, we are to spread the good news (the Gospel) about Christ to others. How can we influence other people for Christ? Can you think of any recent examples where you helped spread your faith to someone else? What are some of the most effective ways to do this? How might the church partner with you to reach your friends, neighbors and relatives for Christ?
5. Read Philippians 3:20-21. How are these verses encouraging to us? If we realized that our true citizenship was a heavenly one, how might it impact how we live our lives? How do these verses encourage you?
6. Sometimes people have described Christians as being "so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good." What do you think people mean by this description? How can we make sure we don't "check out" on this world as we wait for the next?
7. How might you apply tonight's lesson to your life?