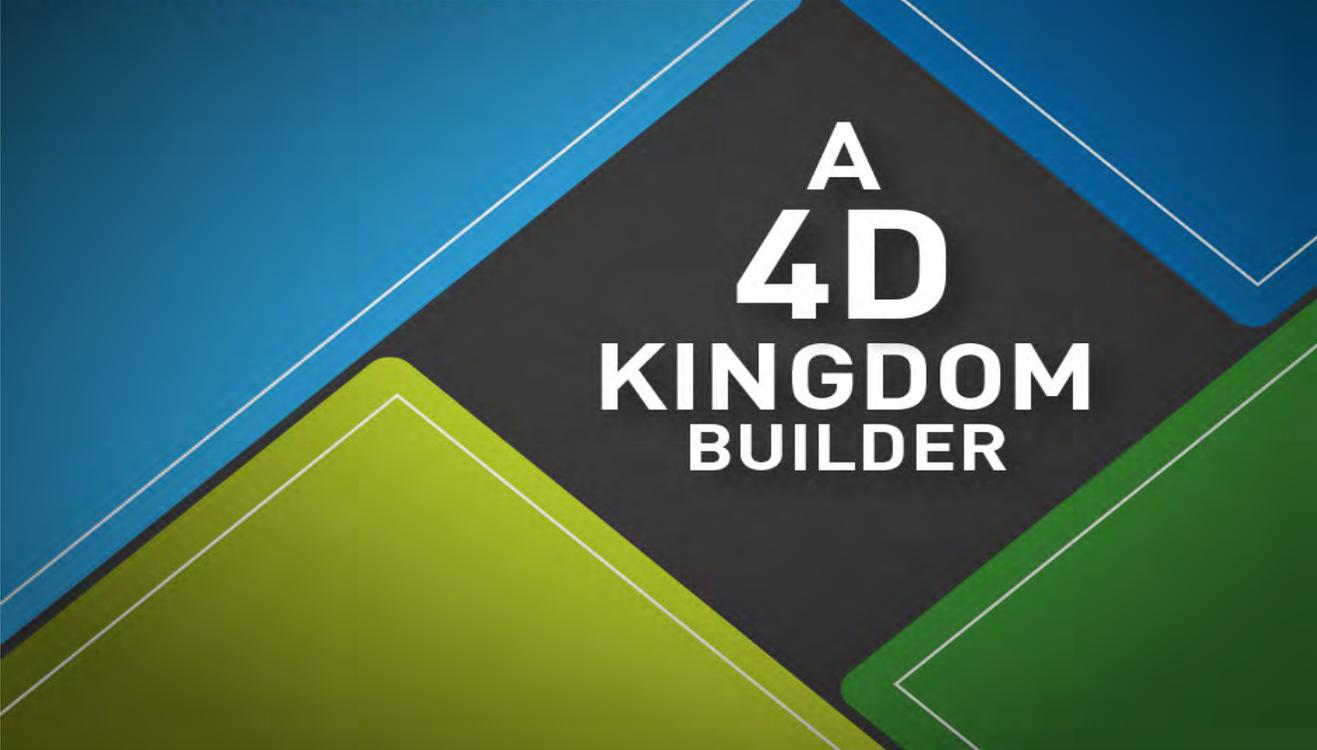


4-D Kingdom Builders

Spiritual leadership in the 4 main dimensions of our lives



A 4D KINGDOM BUILDER

Preparation For This Study

PRAY—for pastor Derek as he delivers this week’s message, guidance in leading your group, and that God uses this topic to create Kingdom building life-change.

READ—1 Cor 3:1-13, Matt 9:35-38, Matt 13:31-32 and Matt 28:18-20

DECIDE—What parts of this study will work best for your group? Should you add anything? Leave anything out?

MAIN POINT—We are all building upon a kingdom of some sort. The question is, *whose* kingdom is it, and will what we build stand?

1 Corinthians 3:1-13

Laying a foundation of salvation in Christ alone, and building upon it knowing what we built will be tested.

Matthew 9:35-38

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

Matthew 13:31-32

The parable of the kingdom of God being like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a tree.

Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commission charge that [4-D Kingdom Builders] should be making disciples.

"We give our lives to lead people to life-changing faith in Jesus"

INTRODUCTION



HEBRON

Quote Me:

"In the next 10 years, Hebron will raise up thousands of 4-D Kingdom Builders to influence tens of thousands with the Gospel here and around the world"

-Hebron's Vision Statement

This week, Pastor Derek Spain (Hebron's executive pastor) fills in for Kevin to launch the church into a new series on Hebron's vision statement: In the next 10 years, Hebron will raise up thousands of 4-D Kingdom Builders to influence tens of thousands with the Gospel here and around the world.

Over the next several weeks, we will be diving into the four different areas where this plays out: at Home, at Work/School,

at Church, and in our Community (both local and worldwide).

This week, we will take a deeper look into what a 4-D Kingdom Builder is, and what steps we may need to take to either become one, or get on board with where we collectively want to move together as a body of Kingdom Builders.

Beginning Questions

****NOTE:** If this is your first time using this study, you will notice that at the end of each session there is a next-step challenge. It corresponds with the same challenge given in the worship service by Pastor Kevin. Each week, you will begin your meeting with a time of reviewing how well people did applying and carrying out the previous week's Next-Step Challenge. Make sure to plan time to do this each week!

- 1) Last week's Next Step Challenge included finding an accountability partner (if you don't currently have one), and practicing accountability every day with your spouse or someone close to you. How did it go?
- 2) What are your thoughts about Hebron's Vision Statement (listed to the left)?

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Kingdom Building

Am I a builder, and what am I building?

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the concept of being a 4D Kingdom Builder who fits into Hebron's vision of influencing tens of thousands with the Gospel here and around the world. Perhaps the best place to start is with the question: "What exactly *is* a 4D Kingdom Builder?" At Hebron, a 4D Kingdom Builder (4DKB) is defined as a Christ-follower who does not compartmentalize their faith but lives up to their maximum potential in all areas of life. He/she is a spiritual leader and a difference-maker everywhere they go.

At first glance, would you consider yourself to be a 4D Kingdom Builder?

The 4D part stands for the four main dimensions of a person's life: Home, Work/School, Church, and Community. We will take a deeper look into each of those four areas over the next four weeks, but today we will focus on the idea of being a Kingdom Builder. This concept comes from a number of places in Scripture. Pastor Derek challenges us by asking what we think it would look like for God's kingdom to *really* come, and His will to *actually* be done in our lives as it is in heaven. The concept of a Kingdom Builder also comes as an answer to the question, "Why doesn't God just call us up to heaven as soon as we receive salvation?" There is more to this life that God has planned for us to do—Kingdom Building. Let's take a look at a passage of Scripture that ties in to this concept of kingdom building...

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-13

Stages of Your Spiritual Journey

In verse 9 of this passage, there are three identities that can be used to describe different stages of a person's spiritual journey. First, as Paul was labeling the Corinthians, we begin as God's field. (It should be pointed out that this is a spiritual journey, and in order to be identified as *God's* field, you must officially belong to God. Those who cannot say they have received salvation through faith that Jesus died on the cross to pay for their sins once and for all do not belong to God, and are therefore spiritually dead.) But those who have received salvation and are God's field are a field meant to grow... Hence Paul's illustration that he planted, Apollos watered, and God grew the fields.

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There is also the identification as God’s building. It is an ongoing process whereby we are being grown as a field, and built up as a building (and sometimes knocked down where needed). Lastly, there are the roles of being a fellow worker with God—a Kingdom Builder. While there is certainly a time where we are young believers in our faith, similar to a field that is being planted and watered and we are being poured into regularly, we are not meant to remain as “hearers of the word,” but to become “doers of the word” (James 1:22). In doing this, we also become fellow workers with God in ministry.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Who do you think were the workers of the harvest Jesus was referring to?

If you follow this part of the story into chapter 10 you will see that right after Jesus tells His disciples to pray for God to send workers into the harvest field he prepares his disciples to be those workers as He sends them out into the fields. If you pair this together with **Matthew 28:18-20** we know that all believers are called to be those workers, or kingdom builders.

As we build, we build not in our own strength, but in the knowledge and confidence that it is God who grows. For some, the idea of being some kingdom builder who is responsible for the spiritual well-being of other people is insurmountably frightening. However, it should come as both a relief and encouragement to us that it is God, and God alone who is responsible for the spiritual growth of an individual. Also, let’s look back at Matthew 9:37-38.

What is a harvest? What does the term ‘harvest’ imply about the crop being harvested?

Sure, there is a time where we are called to plant and to water (as Paul described both his a Apollo’s work in ministry to the Corinthians), but Jesus also implies that there is a field of work that God has been preparing and growing, and now simply awaits somebody to obediently “collect the harvest.” This goes back to pastor Kevin’s question a few months ago, “Whose next step of faith hinges upon your next step of obedience?” How many are spiritually ready to receive salvation or spiritual growth, but need only for someone to ask them to receive it?

Building and Buildings

We all know that the most important part of a building is the foundation. If there are any mistakes in the foundation of a building, you can be sure that building will fall. 1 Cor 3:10-11 speaks toward a spiritual foundation of salvation that can only be built on Jesus.

What is the foundation of your life built upon?

What is the foundation of your ministry/work as a Kingdom Builder built upon?

The answer to both of those questions must be a resounding YES. Similarly, when we look at our lives and the ministry we do, we should ask ourselves whether or not the *reason* we are doing what we are doing is to lay down or build upon a foundation of Christ. In a minute, we will break into groups and examine ourselves in these tasks. We will be challenged to ask ourselves whether we are a kingdom builder, or if we are actually doing any kingdom building. Many of us might agree that we can be doing better, but look to **Matthew 13:31-32** for encouragement.

Even if your personal faith, or current ‘kingdom building status’ were the size of a mustard seed, what can God do with it? Do you believe you still have time?

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RESPONSE

Break into small groups and discuss/pray for each other in regard to the following:

- If your life and spiritual journey was a physical building, what kind of building/structure would it be? What stage of development would it be in?
- If your personal ministry was a physical building, what kind of building/structure would it be? What stage of development would it be in?
- Is there anything in either 'building' that needs to be removed, torn down, and rebuilt with either different material or towards a new design?
- What kind of building do you want your life and ministry to look like?

ENGAGE

HEBRON'S ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

You may have noticed new icons and booths around the church, especially in the lobby. These reflect our 4 areas that we want every Hebron member to engage in our mission and vision strategies. Those four strategies are:

Worship Together Connect Groups



Serve In

Reach Out

NEXT STEP CHALLENGES

In Hebron's Vision Statement 4D Kingdom Builders are said to 'influence' others with the Gospel. Given John Maxwell and Henry Blackaby's quotes that "leadership is influence," and "*spiritual* leadership is moving people onto God's agenda," respectively:

- ❖ Ask God to reveal areas where you need to grow in being a spiritual leader/kingdom builder and take necessary steps to do it.



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COMMENTARY on 1 Cor 3:11-15

Some build upon this foundation *gold, silver, and precious stones* (v. 12), namely, those who receive and propagate the pure truths of the gospel, who hold nothing but the *truth as it is in Jesus*, and preach nothing else. This is building well upon a good foundation, making all of a piece, when ministers not only depend upon Christ as the great prophet of the church, and take him for their guide and infallible teacher, but receive and spread the doctrines he taught, in their purity, without any corrupt mixtures, without adding or diminishing. II. Others *build wood, hay, and stubble*, on this foundation; that is, though they adhere to the foundation, they depart from the mind of Christ in many particulars, substitute their own fancies and inventions in the room of his doctrines and institutions, and build upon the good foundation what will not abide the test when the day of trial shall come, and the fire must make it manifest, as wood, hay, and stubble, will not bear the trial by fire, but must be consumed in it. There is a time coming when a discovery will be made of what men have built on this foundation: *Every man's work shall be made manifest*, shall be laid open to view, to his own view and that of others. Some may, in the simplicity of their hearts, build wood and stubble on the good foundation, and know not, all the while, what they have been doing; but in the day of the Lord their own conduct shall appear to them in its proper light. Every man's work shall be made manifest to himself, and made manifest to others, both those that have been misled by him and those that have escaped his errors. Now we may be mistaken in ourselves and others; but there is a day coming that will cure all our mistakes, and show us ourselves, and show us our actions in the true light, without covering or disguise: *For the day shall declare it* (that is, every man's work), *because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is*, v. 13. The day shall declare and make it manifest, the last day, the great day of trial; see ch. 4:5. The expression carries in it a plain allusion to the refiner's art, in which the fire separates and distinguishes the dross from the gold and silver; as it also will silver and gold and precious stones, that will endure the fire, from wood and hay and stubble, that will be consumed in it. Note, There is a day coming that will as nicely distinguish one man from another, and one man's work from another's, as the fire distinguishes gold from dross, or metal that will bear the fire from other materials that will be consumed in it. In that day, 1. Some men's works will *abide the trial*—will be found standard. It will appear that they not only held the foundation, but that they built regularly and well upon it—that they laid on proper materials, and in due form and order. The foundation and the superstructure were all of a piece. The foundation-truths, and those that had a manifest connection with them, were taught together. It may not be so easy to discern this connection now, nor know what works will abide the trial then; but that day will make a full discovery. And such a builder shall not, cannot fail of a reward. He will have praise and honour in that day, and eternal recompence after it. Note, Fidelity in the ministers of Christ will meet with a full and ample reward in a future life. Those who spread true and pure religion in all the branches of it, and whose work will abide in the great day, shall receive a reward. And, Lord, how great! how much exceeding their deserts! 2. There are others *whose works shall be burnt* (v. 15), whose corrupt opinions and doctrines, or vain inventions and usages in the worship of God, shall be discovered, disowned, and rejected, in that day—shall be first manifested to be corrupt, and then disapproved of God and rejected.

- Matthew Henry Commentary