

# TANGIBLE KINGDOM: WHAT IS LIVING OUT?

Sometimes living out the Kingdom in tangible ways requires difficult choices. We may need to leave some of our comfortable habits in order to place ourselves in meaningful contact with those outside the Christian community. We wrestle with their "differentness". We must find ways to really "listen to their lives" without judgment. If we make the decision to live among them versus cloistering ourselves away from them, we must love them without strings -- not to convert them, but to simply let God's kingdom be seen in us.

## Opening Prayer:

- God, help me to look at every face, realizing that I am not only myself, but a part of them as well. Help me to know that we are all faces of God. **Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

- John 17: 15-25
- Romans 10: 14-15
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7

## Discussion Questions:

- What are the responsibilities of maintaining a good relationship?
- Think of someone you have a relationship with outside of your regular circle of family and friends? Why are you in that relationship? What does it "cost" you to maintain it?

## Application: What does this message mean to me? How do I grow in my response?

Think of someone you encounter regularly/frequently that is not necessarily in your inner circle. Why might God be calling you to develop a relationship with them?

Imagine you were asked to serve as a Big Brother or Sister to a child living in an Inner city project. What would you fear most? Would you do it? Why or why not?

**Closing Prayer:** Father, help me to look inside myself and see that all mankind is one -- for seeing a stranger as a face of God changes both him and me. If I have seen God in him, how can he see anything less in himself? Amen.

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