



## Week 2

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website ([www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk](http://www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk)). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

## ...Yeast



### Read Matthew 13:33

This is the second study in the series on The Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God (also referred to as The Kingdom of Heaven or The Kingdom of the Son of Man) was the principle theme of Jesus' teaching and of the New Testament church. When Jesus began his Ministry in Galilee, he proclaimed the Good News of God (the Gospel). 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe good news' (Mark 1:15). If this is what Jesus primarily came to tell us, then we need to learn all we can about his Kingdom. We need to open our eyes and see God at work in us, through us and around us.

### Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. 'Parables speak the language of enigma. They traffic in subversive speech. A parable begins to untangle the knot of a mystery – but leaves you to keep teasing it out on your own.' Read Matthew 13:10-17. In the light of this quote and this passage, why do you think Jesus taught in parables?
2. In this parable, the reference of yeast means something positive. Read Matthew 16 and Galatians 5:1-9. In both these passages it is the reverse. What is Jesus speaking of and why is it so bad?
3. Think of the ways in which the Kingdom of God can be likened to yeast and its effects on a batch of dough. Do you think this is a good illustration?
4. Without yeast, bread would be more like a cracker or a biscuit – lifeless and flat. Without the Kingdom of God, our lives would be the same. Read Romans 6:15-23; Ephesians 2:1-5 Corinthians 15:54-57. Take time to reflect on the way sin deadens and limits our lives and diminishes human potential. Then reflect on the cure for sin in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – see also Romans 5:12-21; Colossians 2:6-15; 1 John 10-13.
5. Yeast is hidden in the dough and its presence not revealed until its effects can be seen. So it is with the Kingdom of God. Think of ways in which the Kingdom of God is hidden until God chooses to reveal it. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-13 and Matthew 10:26-28.
6. It takes time for yeast to work in the dough to make it rise. Read Psalm 27:14, 33:20; Acts 1:4; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:11-14. In what ways does the Kingdom of God involve waiting?
7. 'Hurry is the enemy of love.' Do you think this is true? Why is this? A W Tozer wrote, 'God never hurries. There are no deadlines against which he must work. Only to know this is to quiet our spirits and relax our nerves.' Read Isaiah 30:15 and 2 Peter 3:8,9. What does this tell us about:-
  - a. The attitude towards time in the Kingdom of God?
  - b. How we should conduct our lives in this frenetic world?

Right at the start of his Ministry, Jesus proclaimed, 'The time has come,' he said, 'The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news' (Mark 1:1,15). 'Time's up! God's Kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the message' (The Message). How can we understand the paradox of the Kingdom of God where there is plenty of time and yet 'time's up'?