

D-Cycle 1: Pursuing Kingdom Dreams

South Asian American students often wrestle with what it means to pursue the Kingdom of God in light of parental expectations and dreams, which at times can feel at odds. The hope is for us to have a bigger vision for what it means to honor our families *and* courageously follow God.

Hear the Word

DISCUSS

What is one of the most expensive things you have purchased or received and would say was worth every dollar? Explain why.

MATTHEW 13:44-46

Take 3 mins individually to carefully read this passage then discuss the questions below together.

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

DISCUSS

1. What is your understanding of what the "kingdom of heaven" means or represents?
2. Both of these purchases may seem like financial no-brainers: give up something worth less now for something worth far more in the near future. Upon further reflection, what risks might the buyer assume in these parables?
3. What would it look like to value God above everything else, to the point of being willing to give up what currently gives you security?
4. How might that affect your family? What risks or costs would you or your family pay?

REFLECT

Take a moment of silence to listen to God. Reflect on this parable in light of the goals and desires you have for your own life. Reflect on your relationship with Jesus and if you truly believe that Jesus is more valuable than all you have.

Respond Actively

Schedule a time to get together to debrief this activity. Debrief questions can be found below.

Create 3 columns and list your personal dreams, your parents' expectations/dreams for you, and your impression of God's dreams for you. Reflect on where there are gaps and why.

My Dreams	My Parents' Dreams for Me	God's Dreams for me

This week take an hour to interview your parents in person or on the phone / video chat. If it's helpful, let them know you are doing a homework assignment for a campus group.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Ask parents about their vocational and life dreams when they were your age. Ask why or how they arrived at these dreams.
2. If parents are religious, ask how their faith informed how they pursued those dreams.
3. Were their dreams different than their parents in any way (e.g. leaving home to immigrate to the US). If so, how did they work through that?
4. Looking back, what would they wish they did differently or knew more about?
5. Ask what counsel and dreams they have for you as you pursue your future.

GRATITUDE

Express gratitude to your parents. This can be an intimate experience, and it's good to acknowledge your appreciation for their openness.

Debrief & Interpret

**Note: Schedule a time to debrief this experience and continue the conversation.*

SHARE

- Did you have any "AHA" moments with your parents? What did you learn for the first time? What surprised you?
- What next step of faith is the Holy Spirit inviting you to?

PRAYER

Pray in pairs to submit your dreams and your parents' expectations to the Lord. Ask God what it means to pursue kingdom dreams through your vocation and in your life. Pray for God to bring peace to any places of tension in your family and for the Holy Spirit to empower you to love and honor your parents. Pray for the courage to take risks and pursue what is more valuable in the long-run, even when there may be short-term costs.

EXPAND THE INFLUENCE

- Share what you learned with 2 South Asian peers.
- Lead 2 younger South Asian students through the same d-cycle.