

7. Is there an opportunity for your group to continue a relationship with the people or organization you served? What might that look like? Would you like to continue serving this organization during Compassion Week?
8. How did this project enhance your understanding of how service/social justice is a key part of discipleship?



*Touching heaven, changing earth  
with head, heart and hands*

**May 17, 2015**

**Scripture Lesson: Mark 4: 26-32**

*We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself or share them with friends.*

### Thoughts and Notes

1. With which understanding of the “Kingdom of God” do you most resonate? Why? With which understanding do you not resonate? Why?
  - “God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule.” (Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*)
  - “The reign of God dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ, the purpose of which is the redemption of his people from sin and from demonic powers, and the final establishment of the new heavens and the new earth.” (Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*)
  - “Not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Apostle Paul, Romans 14:17)
  - “As if someone scattered seed on the ground” and it grows and matures. (Jesus, Mark 4:26-27)
  - “Like a mustard seed.” (Jesus, Mark 4:31)



2. What do you think of these understandings of the “Kingdom of God”?

- It is a Christian lifestyle. It is here, now.
- It is a real government ruled by Jesus Christ. It is not here, yet.
- It is the destination of the “saved.”
- It is an unknown, mysterious, eternal existence open to all.

3. Everyone has a role in the “Kingdom of God.” What is your role now? What might your role be in the future?

- A farmer
- A planter
- A waterer
- A dormant seed in the ground
- A germinating seed
- A plant in process (“First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,” UMH #694)
- A harvester

*Many of our GroupLife small groups are using a new curriculum tied to our worship theme, “Planting the Promise,” that includes doing a service project together. For the third session, they will use these questions as a discussion guide. If you would like to participate in a group, visit [www.laumc.org/growinfaith](http://www.laumc.org/growinfaith) and click on the “Find a Group” button.*



At the completion of the service project you have planned and enacted together, set a time to get together and share about it—that could be immediately afterward or at a future time. Here are some questions to consider as you share, discuss, and debrief:

1. What did you enjoy most about doing the service project?
2. What was the most challenging element of the project?
3. What surprised you most about participating in the project?
4. How did you/your group benefit from doing the project?
5. What was the outcome of the project on those you served? How could that have been improved, or how could the outcome be extended further?
6. If others consider doing a project like this, what would you recommend?