

8. OUR LIFE IN THE KINGDOM HAS NO END

Our life in the Church begins with Baptism and Chrismation. In Baptism, you were given a new birth and a new life with Jesus Christ. In Chrismation, you received God's own Spirit, and became part of God's Kingdom. You are now a member or a citizen of God's Kingdom.

God's Kingdom is not like other kingdoms or countries here on earth which sometimes disappear or grow larger or smaller because of wars or earthquakes or new rulers. God's Kingdom has no end and it has no boundaries. We can't find it on a map or up in space, but we know it exists. The Bible tells us in many ways what the Kingdom of God is like.

Answer these questions about God's Kingdom by reading the Bible passages that are given.

1. The angel Gabriel told Mary that the Kingdom would have no end. Who did he say would rule in this Kingdom? (Luke 1:31-33)

2. John the Baptist preached about the Kingdom. How did he tell the people to prepare for it? (Matthew 3:1-2)

3. How did Jesus tell people to prepare for the Kingdom? (Mark 1:14-15; John 3:5)

4. What kinds of people did Jesus say would enter the Kingdom of Heaven? (Matthew 5:3; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 19:14)

5. How did Jesus think of Himself as a King?
a. Did He hope to become a king on earth? How do you know? (John 18:36)

b. For what reason did Jesus say He was born to be a king? (John 18:37)

Jesus Christ brings us the Kingdom. Whenever we are together with Him, we can already be in the Kingdom because Jesus is there. And we know God's Kingdom has no end. It lasts forever and ever.

The sign of our being in God's Kingdom forever and ever takes place after we receive the Holy Chrism. The priest leads us and our godparents in a procession around the baptismal font or around a table in the center of the church. As the priest carries the Cross and the godparents the candles, all the

people sing:

"As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia."

Three times this little procession goes around, to remind us that there is no end to our life with God.

