



KINGDOMNOMICS

STUDY GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND SMALL GROUPS

TREASURE

TALENT

TIME

PHIL WIEGAND
WITH SHERYL MOON

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KingdomNomics Study Guide

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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the *KingdomNomics* Study Guide! This resource has been prepared to help you think more deeply about the principles explained in Phil Wiegand's book, *KingdomNomics: Enjoy a Life that Will Echo into Eternity*. It will help you reflect upon your answer to the big question: *How am I using my time, talent, and treasure to glorify God ... both now and into eternity?*

The decisions that you make today *will* echo into eternity. *KingdomNomics* concerns itself with knowing and experiencing the benefits of trading earthly, temporary gratification for something that will last forever. Phil Wiegand has discovered the principles for finding joy in that trade. He has learned that worldly wealth comes and goes. But when we act on the kingdom principles laid out for us in the Bible, we can become rich in the world to come by making the right investments in this one.

KingdomNomics requires that we keep our eyes focused on God and his priorities, and that we apply discipline, wisdom, and sacrifice to all our financial decisions. For the first 30 years of his life, Phil had no conception of these principles. He lived his life for the temporal. But in time, all that changed. He heard a message by Dr. Billy Graham and examined his life in light of eternity. Phil found that, as he pursued the things of this world, a deep thirst inside of him was never quenched; no business deal, no possession, no endeavor was enough. But when he gave his life over to Christ, a new desire sprang up in him; he had more than enough of everything and he wanted to use all of his resources to glorify God.

This study is designed for both individual and group study, by individuals of all ages and in all walks of life (and income levels!). You will receive the greatest benefit if you are able to read the corresponding chapter in the *KingdomNomics* book. In each chapter of this study guide, key quotes from the book are presented, followed by insightful questions to focus your thinking and personal application of the material.

As you apply the principles of *KingdomNomics* to your life, you will find your relationship with God, your perspectives on all of your resources and ultimately ... your giving, transformed by God's almighty power.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY



Begin by reading the corresponding chapter in the *KingdomNomics* book. As you begin to read each chapter, ask God to show you his desires and plans for your life.

Read each chapter carefully. We suggest using a highlighter to mark ideas that are especially meaningful to you.

As you go through the quotes and questions provided in this guide, reflect upon each one and write out your answers. Respond to the questions honestly and thoughtfully. If you are participating in a group study, you don't need to reveal all of the private details of your answers to the group ... but be sure to be honest with yourself.

It's important to take the time to *apply* the *KingdomNomics* principles, concepts, and ideas to your own life!

IDEAS FOR MEMBERS OF A GROUP STUDY



Expect God to teach you! As you begin your individual preparation for each chapter, pray that God will speak to you through his Word and by his Holy Spirit.

Come prepared for the group discussion. Read the material before you come to the group. Take time to think about and answer the questions.

Bring your own questions based on your own study.

Be willing to participate. It's important to share your ideas as well as listen to others in the group.

Stick to the topic. There are many possible answers to each question; however, it is important to not let the conversation wander from the pertinent topic. When possible, build on the comments of others in the group.

Listen to others. Participate, by all means, but be mindful to allow others to do so as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GROUP LEADERS



It is important that you take a few minutes to read through the next few paragraphs of this Introduction. You will find ideas on how to optimize the time you have for each session as well as important instructions on how to facilitate the group discussion.

Group size: If you have more than 12 members in your group, you should divide into smaller groups of 6-8 members. This will allow for more individual sharing and can help those individuals who might feel intimidated by the larger number of faces in the group. Assign a capable leader to facilitate discussion for each small group.

Decide on your approach: Will you go through this material in 12 sessions (one meeting for each chapter), or do you need to combine some of the sessions based on the number of weeks you have available? Good sessions to combine, if needed, are: 3 and 4; 5 and 6; 9 and 10; 11 and 12.

Prepare well: Read, reflect, pray, and listen to the Spirit's direction. Ask God to help you understand and apply the material to your own life. Ask God to open your heart to the message of his Word. Diligently pray for the other members of your group.

Stay focused: A group functions best when a leader helps everyone stick to the topic at hand. It is your responsibility to ask the questions, listen attentively to those who are sharing, and redirect the conversation when necessary.

Use your time wisely and watch your time carefully. Have an idea as to how much time you will spend on each question. Obviously, you can be flexible, but failure to keep track of your time will frustrate members who had something important to discuss later in the session, but were unable to contribute because you ran out of time. It is your job as the leader to keep the group moving through the questions and at the same time be sensitive to a member who is sharing something important. Keep track of the time and adjust as necessary to get all the way to the end.

Emphasize from the beginning that what is shared in the group, stays in the group. Trust is an important component of small group sharing. Nothing will shut your group down quicker than group members feeling as though what they share might be shared with others outside of the group or used against them.

Ask questions with interest and warmth. Listen carefully to individual answers. Every answer is significant; affirm each person's participation.

Be sensitive to who is doing the talking in your group. Is one person monopolizing the time? Is another person talking about irrelevant information to the topic at hand? Is someone only listening and never offering a thought or idea? As tactfully as you know how, keep the discussion on track and draw out everyone's ideas. This can be difficult! Pray for wisdom and courage to keep the group focused and sensitive to all members.

Be flexible. Reword questions if necessary, skip those that have already been answered through the discussion of another question, or add a question as needed.

Don't be afraid of silence. Allow people to think about their answers. If necessary, repeat or rephrase a question, but don't jump in with your own answer. A great group can quickly become passive if they sense the leader will do most of the talking.

Don't be afraid of controversy. Some of this material is challenging and not everyone will apply the principles in the same way. You do not need to have consensus on a question in order to move on. Allow group members to share differing ideas and perspectives.

1

LIFE'S LEADING INDICATORS



Principle (page viii)

“KingdomNomics is a discipline committed to experiencing maximum returns in life and eternity.”

1. Certain Factors (page 1)

“There are what we call ‘leading indicators’ that predict future performance. We look to certain factors to help us predict success.”

- Q: What are some of the “leading indicators” (factors to which one may look to predict success) in your life?
- Q: With this particular set of indicators, what kind of future are you pursuing?
- Q: Is your present level of impact what you really wish to achieve or are you inadvertently pursuing the wrong things?

2. The Great Trade (page 2)

“KingdomNomics is all about knowing and experiencing the benefits of joyfully trading earthly, temporary gratification for something that will last forever.”

- Q: What in your life are you presently pursuing that is achieving temporary gratification?
- Q: What are you pursuing that will last forever?
- Q: How do you really feel about investing in things that will last forever ... are you excited, scared, indifferent, confused, focused, inspired, joyful?

3. Instant Gratification (page 4)

“We live in an instant gratification world in which people want easy fixes and simple solutions. ... But our focus is not on today's easy pleasure; it's on eternal significance.”

- Q: How often do you think of using your resources for eternal significance?
- Q: Can you think of two ways you might be willing to invest in God's world?
- Q: Are there times when you specifically forgo instant gratification in order to achieve eternal significance?

4. Eternal Perspective (page 5)

“*KingdomNomics* dictates that my checkbook speaks of a life consumed by eternal realities.”

- Q: Take a look at your checkbook (or your electronic spending record). What do your spending habits reveal about your commitments and priorities?
- Q: Are there any areas in which you would like to change your spending habits?

5. Related Biblical Principle: 2 Corinthians 4:18 (page 5)

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

- Q: What are some specific ways you can fix your eyes on the eternal as you move through your day?
- Q: Why do you think focusing on what is “unseen” is such a difficult endeavor?

6. One Master (page 6)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13)

“It's an all-or-nothing proposition, because the human heart has room for only one ruler.”

- Q: Why do you think many people assume they can serve two masters?

- Q: What challenges do you face when you try to serve two masters?
- Q: What does it take to choose to serve only God as your master?
- Q: Is anything hindering you from serving God alone? If so, what? Are you ready to confess this to God and to give him total lordship?

7. Priorities (page 6)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

“Aim at heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you get neither.” C. S. Lewis

- Q: Make a list of the top ten priorities in your life. Next, list them in the order in which you are actually living them. For example: You may have listed in your top three: God, family, and work, but as you consider the time and energy you spend on each, the list may be in this order: work, family, God. Are you surprised in any way by your findings?
- Q: If needed, how can you refocus your priorities so that your life reflects them in their proper order?
- Q: In what ways are you “aiming at heaven”?

8. Created for Significance (page 7)

“You are no less than God's investment capital in his creation.”

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

- Q: What do you think it means to be God’s “investment capital”?
- Q: What fruit are you producing?
- Q: What endeavors are you pursuing apart from Jesus Christ?
- Q: What new direction do you need to take to be more fruitful in God’s creation?

9. The Bottom Line (page 8)

“It all comes down to your time, your talents, and your treasure, and how you use them.”

Q: As you consider the use of your time, talents, and treasure, are you presently consumed by the temporary things of this world, or with the passion of living for Christ?

Q: Do you have a *desire* to have a life that echoes into eternity? How do your actions reflect that desire? If they aren't, how could they be?

Creating the Echo

What needs to happen in your life in order for God to have more control of your time, your talents, and your treasure?

2

THREE KINDS OF BELIEVERS



Principle (page 10)

“KingdomNomics is seeing ourselves as God’s stewards for the strategic use of resources—great and small.”

1. Your Resources (page 11)

“Resources—everything you can use or interact with in this world, including time, talent, and treasure.”

- Q: How do you relate the three entities of *God*, *You*, and *Resources* to one another? (See diagrams on page 12 of *KingdomNomics*.)
- Q: Truthfully, which entity is the “master” in your life?
- Q: Make a list of all the resources currently available to you. Which of these resources are you currently using to advance God’s kingdom?
- Q: How can you fully use your resources to advance God’s kingdom? Ask God to reveal his will to you on this. You may want to keep a journal on how he directs you over time, and how you respond.

2. Earthly-minded Believers (page 13)

“The Earthly-minded Believer sees money the way nearly everyone else does. He wants to keep as much of it as possible, and use it for his own personal enjoyment of life.”

- Q: Does this describe your current perspective?
- Q: In what ways does this section of the book challenge you?
- Q: In what ways are you investing significantly in the things of God?

Q: Pray about your use of the resources God has entrusted to you. Are there additional ways in which he is leading you to invest?

3. Materialism (page 14)

“[Earthly-minded Believers] have compartmentalized the sphere of all their resources, whether time, talent, or treasure, and haven't brought these under the Lordship of Christ.”

“Their mind is set on earthly things.” (Philippians 3:19)

Q: How much control does Christ have over all your resources?

Q: Are you holding anything back from God? If so, why?

4. Christian Philanthropists (page 14)

“[Christian Philanthropists] are believers who come to the conviction that God has blessed them, and they should give back a portion of what they've received to help support ministry in missions. For them, this is somewhat of a duty, an obligation to fulfill, like paying taxes or voting.”

Q: How do you view your giving? Do you give out of a sense of conviction? Duty? Obligation? Responsibility? Excitement? Joy?

Q: What kind of giving gives you the most joy and why?

5. New Testament Giving (page 15)

“Giving of treasure in the New Testament, particularly in the book of Acts, is something that happens as a natural, spontaneous overflow of the spiritual adventure.”

Q: Would you use any of these words to describe your giving: natural, spontaneous, overflowing, adventurous? Why or why not?

6. Proportional Giving (pages 15-16)

“‘In keeping with your income’ is a common-sense measurement that tells us that each person should give as he or she is able.”

Q: What excuses do you use for *not* giving?

Q: At this point in your life, which resource are you most able to share: time, talent, or treasure? Where can you begin to use this resource?

Q: Is your giving of any of your resources proportional to what God has given you?

7. Intentionality (page 16)

“Paul is telling people to be diligent about giving in preparation for the time when the funding is needed.”

Q: What kind of *plan* do you presently have for your giving?

Q: On a scale of 1 to 10, how intentional are you in your giving?

Q: What steps can you take to become more intentional in your giving?

8. Kingdom Investors (page 17)

“Kingdom Investors see all that they have and all that they own as their sacred trust, theirs to use strategically for the advancement of Christ and his eternal purposes.”

Q: Do you perceive all of your resources as a “sacred trust”?

Q: In what ways are you “strategically” advancing Christ and his purposes?

9. Eternal Vision (pages 18–19)

“Kingdom Investors live in this world but see into the eternal one.”

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

Q: In what ways do you have your heart set “on things above”?

Q: How can you deepen your concern for things that are eternal?

10. Sowing and Reaping (pages 19–20)

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Q: What are you sowing?

Q: Are you sowing sparingly or generously?

Q: If you were to reap generously, what would it look like?

Q: Which phrases in these verses are meaningful to you at this juncture in your life? Why?

11. Glorifying God (page 20)

“When God is glorified, that's when the Kingdom Investor is energized.”

Q: What energizes you?

Q: What would it take for you to be energized by your giving?

Q: How do you feel about giving God glory?

12. Kingdom Investing (page 21)

“KingdomNomics teaches us that kingdom investing is a privilege, a pleasure, and a deep reward on many fronts, in this world as well as the world to come. ... Purposed for this world alone, time is simply a commodity, talent is often used for personal recognition, and money is mere paper or fine metal. But when invested for God's purposes, it can be so much more—it can be a touchstone to the eternal world.”

Q: Do you approach your giving as “a privilege, a pleasure, and a deep reward”? Why or why not?

Q: Have you thought about using your resources as “a touchstone to the eternal world”?

Q: What brings you the greatest joy in your giving?

Creating the Echo

How do you perceive your resources: as great ... or small? In what ways does that perception affect what you do with them? What one step can you take to be a better steward of the resources God has given to you?

3

THE GREED FACTOR



Principle (page 22)

“KingdomNomics begins with a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.”

1. The American Dream (page 25)

“I wanted to make money. Why? The theme of my life was mostly thinking about the accumulation of wealth. I thought that was the American Dream. Because when you have enough money, you can do what you want, when you want.”

Q: What is the theme of your life?

Q: Honestly, what do you *want* to do with your money?

Q: How much of your financial thinking is driven by the “American Dream” vs. what the Bible says about money?

2. Changed by Money (page 26)

“Here’s a law no one has named: Increase the supply of money, and it will change *you*. Yes, build it, and they will come. But just who or what will come? Greed, lust, and every form of desire.”

Q: Has there ever been a time in your life when you were short on time, talent, or treasure? In what positive ways has having more of these resources changed you? In what negative ways have you been impacted?

Q: How can you keep a right perspective on the accumulation and use of your resources?

3. Love of Money (pages 26-27)

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.” (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

“Note that it’s not whoever *has* money; it’s whoever *loves money*. Love is reserved for God and his children, not things.”

- Q: What kind of relationship do you have with your time, talent, and treasure?
- Q: In what ways does your life reflect a *love* of your time, your talent, *or* your treasure?
How can you begin to change the object of your love to God?
- Q: How does a deep love for God guide your affections?

4. Greed and Selfishness (page 27)

“Greed and selfishness—which are among the roots that silently coil into the cellar of a wealthy person's life—will grow.”

- Q: Do you think this word picture is effective? Why or why not?
- Q: How can the greed and selfishness that is present in your life be weeded out?
- Q: What is God directing you to pursue?

5. Genuine Relationship (pages 28-29)

“It wasn't enough for me to intellectually accept Christ’s reality. I had to know him in a genuine relationship. I had to let him have all of me, so that every sin and imperfection within me could be cleansed in the way that only he could accomplish.”

- Q: What do you think it means to have a “genuine relationship with Jesus Christ”?
- Q: Have you entered into that relationship? Why or why not? What difference does it make?
- Q: In what ways does a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ change your perspective?

6. Heart Impact (page 30)

“There is no dichotomy between what is in the heart and what is in the hand. The heart governs how we use our possessions, and, in turn, our use of possessions impacts the heart.”

- Q: In what ways have you seen these statements lived out in yourself and those around you?

Q: How is your heart governing your use of possessions?

Q: How is your use of possessions impacting your heart?

Q: If you have identified negative influences in the answers to the previous two questions, what steps is God prompting you to take to change and protect your heart?

Creating the Echo

In what ways is your relationship with Jesus affecting your behavior, choices, and perspectives? Ask him to give you wisdom and direction as you consider new ways to use all the resources God has given you.

4

WHO'S THE BOSS?



Principle (page 32)

“KingdomNomics is using all of our resources to glorify God.”

1. Two Masters (page 34)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

Q: Think about the “masters” in your life. What or whom are you serving besides God?

Q: If you’ve identified more than one master, read further in Matthew 6. What does God tell you not to be concerned about? What does God tell you to seek?

2. Choose Carefully (page 35)

“As a human being, you can’t help but serve something or someone. You will serve God, or you will serve things and stuff. You’d better make that decision carefully, because one of these will win, and it will win all of you.”

Q: Why is it sometimes easier to serve things and stuff rather than God?

Q: Take time to closely examine your life. Whom/what have you been serving? Make a conscious decision or recommitment to whom/what you will serve in the future.

3. Idolatry (page 36)

“Since you and I were made to honor and serve God, we become idolaters when we honor and serve anything or anyone else.”

Q: In what ways are you honoring and serving God?

Q: What sometimes takes God’s place in your life?

Q: What steps can you take to prevent anything else from usurping God’s rightful place?

4. Choose your Pursuit (page 37)

“You have to determine which road to choose. You must decide who or what you pursue.”

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15-16)

Q: What holds us back from consistently “choosing” God?

Q: What step(s) do you need to take to make God your ultimate pursuit?

5. Your Banker (page 38)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
(Matthew 11:28)

“I never found true rest until I went back to that banker called *mammon*, withdrew everything, and deposited it within the Bank of Heaven.”

Q: What is true rest?

Q: What is keeping you from unreservedly giving control of all your resources to God?

6. The Sponge (page 38)

“The heart is like a sponge that soaks up everything around it. When you squeeze the sponge, you’ll get out exactly what you’ve let that sponge absorb.”

Q: What are you presently allowing to soak into your heart?

Q: In what ways do the things your heart has absorbed manifest themselves in your behavior?

Q: How can you better guard what you allow in your heart?

7. Contentment (pages 39-40)

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14)

“The things of this world aren’t designed to give lasting purpose and contentment. They never have and they never will. Serving *mammon* is trusting things and self rather than trusting the one who made them.”

Q: Where do you find purpose and contentment?

Q: When you acquire “things,” does your contentment with them last, or is it temporary? Do you find yourself wanting more and more?

Q: Do you trust in yourself and your things, or do you trust in God alone?

Q: Are you serving *mammon*?

8. Soaking in the Word (pages 40-41)

“Once your heart belongs to Christ, you need to soak it in the living water daily. ... Spiritual growth must be a constant pursuit, a way of life.”

Q: Are you constantly pursuing spiritual growth? In what ways?

Q: What changes do you need to make in order to spend more time “soaking” in the Word of God?

Creating the Echo

How would you describe your relationship with God when it comes to your attitudes and behaviors regarding your time, talent, and treasure? Does it make any difference? Ask God to help you deepen your relationship with him.

5

AIMING AT NEW TARGETS



Principle (page 42)

“KingdomNomics is serving God and God alone.”

1. Mind Control (pages 43 and 47)

“Whatever controls your mind, whether it's God or money or something else, controls you.”

Q: What other things control your mind besides God? What impact does this sometimes have on your life?

Q: How can you begin to allow God to have more control of your mind?

2. Companionship (page 45)

“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”
(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Q: Look up the meaning of the word “never” in the dictionary. What is the definition?

Q: How does it make you feel to know that God will “never” leave you?

Q: How can you apply this passage of scripture to your life *today*?

3. Hope (page 45)

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and full sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.” (1 Peter 1:13)

Q: What are you currently setting your hope on?

Q: What is the hope that we have in God?

Q: How does hope in God influence your giving?

4. Receive (page 45)

“Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
(James 1:21)

Q: What does Hebrews 4:12 also say about God’s word?

Q: Are you allowing God to implant his word in you? In what ways?

Q: In what ways is God’s Word influencing your life on a daily basis?

5. I (page 46)

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Q: Being “crucified with Christ” means that we must “reckon” ourselves dead (Romans 6:11). In what ways have you implemented this truth into your life?

Q: Describe what you think living by faith means. In what ways are you living by faith in Jesus?

Q: How much of your life is wrapped around your “I,” and how much of it is *consumed by Christ*?

6. Submission (page 46)

“We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

“The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6)

Q: What does it mean to submit to Jesus Christ?

Q: What do you think a fully submitted life would look like?

Q: In what ways are you submitting to the lordship of Christ ... and in what ways are you resisting?

7. Total Trust (page 46)

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this ... Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.” (Psalm 37:5-7)

Q: How do you practice being still before the LORD?

Q: In what ways does waiting for God change everything in our circumstances?

8. Pleasing God (pages 47-48)

“The choice to serve God and God alone means that we live to please him rather than ourselves.”

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

Q: How do you really feel about denying yourself?

Q: What does it mean to take up your cross daily?

Q: What does it take to live a life focused on pleasing God?

9. Following Christ (page 48)

“As it turns out, the way of self-absorption—attractive as it initially is—leads only to brokenness and despair, while the way of following Christ leads to deep joy and fulfillment.”

Q: Who are some people you’ve observed who have led self-absorbed lives which have resulted in despair? (Sadly, a look at the lives of our society’s celebrities will provide many examples.)

Q: Why do you think that worldly things ultimately do not satisfy?

Q: Have you experienced “deep joy and fulfillment” as you have followed Christ? If so, in what ways?

10. Life in Christ (page 49)

“Life before Christ is like hustling to serve a slave-master or a boss you can never please, a harsh taskmaster. Life in Christ is a relationship of love and friendship and grace and acceptance. As a result, you want to give, to serve, to

do things for God and others—but out of the overflow of joy rather than a way to buy approval.”

- Q: Have you experienced times when you felt like a slave to your ambition or your possessions? In what ways?
- Q: In what ways has a relationship with Christ made you want to serve?
- Q: Why do you think God wants us to serve others?
- Q: How have turned a desire to serve God and others into a reality in your life? What are some practical ways you could increase your service?

11. Giving instead of Taking (page 51)

“We need to be ‘givers,’ not ‘takers.’”

- Q: Who do you know that is a “taker”? What qualities does the person demonstrate?
- Q: Who do you know that is a “giver”? What qualities does the person demonstrate?
- Q: What do you do more, give or take? Are there any actions you need to take in your life to become more of a giver?

12. God’s Kingdom (page 52)

“I believe that God doesn’t really *need* us to give, he *desires* us to give, because of the *joy* it will bring us and the *work* it will do for his kingdom.”

- Q: Focus in on the italicized words in this quote. How do these words relate to your life right now?
- Q: How is God allowing you to participate in his work? How does that make you feel?

Creating the Echo

What one key concept in this chapter is most important to you today? How can you begin to incorporate it into your life?

6

KINGDOM POWER



Principle (page 54)

“*KingdomNomics* is dependent upon the Holy Spirit’s power.”

1. Spiritual Power (page 55)

“*All of our spiritual power comes from the Holy Spirit. ... The Holy Spirit is Christ living within us. He offers us guidance and just the right words when we face various crises. He comforts us. He strengthens us. He administers the special gifts given to us for ministry.*”

- Q: What has been your past experience/knowledge of the Holy Spirit?
- Q: Do a Bible search on the Holy Spirit and list some of the things that the Word says he will do in the lives of believers. What is his role?
- Q: Are you witnessing the Holy Spirit’s power in your life, or are you striving to do things in your own strength?
- Q: What steps can you take to more fully surrender yourself to the work of the Spirit?

2. Life Change Process (page 56)

“I’ve developed an understanding of the process by which we are changed. I think of it this way: *We soak, we sow, and the Spirit flows.*”

- Q: This concept is totally dependent on God’s Word. Are you regularly reading and applying God’s Word to your life?
- Q: In what ways are you “soaking”? Is meditation on God’s Word and application of it to your life a regular part of your quiet time?
- Q: In what ways are you “sowing” to the Spirit? Are you actively memorizing and reciting scripture?
- Q: Are you experiencing the Spirit flowing in your life? What can you do to experience this to a greater degree?

3. Soak (page 56)

“First comes *soaking* our hearts and minds in the Word of God. ... We need to immerse ourselves in the Word of God until as much of it as possible is engraved on our hearts.”

- Q: Either you are spending time in God’s Word, or you are not. If you are not, what is one step you can take to begin to take the time each day to be in God’s Word?
- Q: If you are spending time in God’s Word each day, would you describe that time as truly “soaking” in it or merely reading?
- Q: What ideas can you think of to help you more thoroughly soak in God’s Word?

4. Sow (pages 56 and 57)

“My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.” (Psalm 45:1)

As we read or recite our verses, we *sow* them to the Spirit.

- Q: Why do you think it’s so important to know scripture? (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Q: What tools are available to help you memorize more scripture?

5. The Spirit Flows (page 57)

“...as we read or recite our verses, we *sow* them to the Spirit, and he begins to *flow* through our being, so that we feel the power and presence of God. ... We come to the Word of God anxious, and he gives us peace. We come with anger about someone, and he gives us love and patience. We come dry, and he fills us to bursting with the refreshment of his goodness.”

- Q: What is your response to this concept? Have you experienced it?
- Q: If yes, what are some specific instances that you remember?
- Q: If you have not had this experience, are you willing to try it?

6. Flowback from the Spirit (page 59)

“One of the simplest truths known to humanity is that we reap what we sow. *Flowback from the Spirit* is the phrase I use to describe what I reap when I

sow to the Spirit by reciting God's Word. It is manifested in many different ways: the secrets that God imparts to us; "light bulb" moments when we suddenly and clearly see something God has been trying to tell us; specific areas of guidance; and simple gifts of encouragement, strength, and power just when we need them."

- Q: Since we reap what we sow, what are some ways in which you are sowing productively?
- Q: What are some ways in which you are sowing unproductively or destructively? What steps can you take to change?
- Q: What is one benefit you are experiencing because you are regularly allowing God's Word to guide you?

7. Flashlight Power (page 62)

"It doesn't matter how much you want to be a "good Christian," or how many times you attend church, how much money you contribute, or how many good deeds you do—you will be as empty a vessel as the battery-less flashlight apart from the living Word of God flowing through you and empowering you by the Holy Spirit."

- Q: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- Q: How have you seen this principle played out?

8. Cooperating with the Spirit (page 63)

"If you're a follower of Jesus Christ, you need not do anything special to invite the Holy Spirit into your life—he is there, just as sure as your heart was pumping blood through your body long before you learned about it in school. As you experience his presence, you can learn to cooperate with him, through reading the Word of God and asking him to illuminate it for you; by asking him to give you the right words during important conversations; and by relying on him to show you how to serve God as you go about the day."

- Q: In what ways are you cooperating, or not cooperating, with the Holy Spirit?
- Q: Have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? In what ways?
- Q: Have you asked God to work in your life, in a tangible way, through the Holy Spirit today?

9. Your Friend (page 63)

“In time, you’ll be more and more aware of the Spirit and how he works in your life. When you stumble, you’ll feel his very gentle whisper of admonishment; when you are worried, you’ll feel his word of encouragement; and when you’re mourning, you’ll feel his comfort. The Holy Spirit is more than just a power source; he is a friend in every need.”

Q: What qualities do you most value in a friend?

Q: How do you feel about having the Holy Spirit in your life as a “friend”?

Q: How do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life?

Creating the Echo

Choose one Bible verse (either found within this chapter or book, or another that you select) on which to focus the *sow*, *soak*, and *flow* process. Pay attention to the ways in which you see God working and to what you are learning.

7

KINGDOM ATTITUDES



Principle (page 64)

“*KingdomNomics* requires a Christ-centered mentality.”

1. Looking to Eternity (page 65)

“*KingdomNomics* is looking at all of our resources in light of eternity.”

- Q: And here we come to a crucial point: *in light of eternity*. How often do you make decisions regarding the use of your resources *in light of eternity*?
- Q: If not in light of eternity, what criteria are you using to make these choices?
- Q: What steps can you take to remind yourself of eternal impact when making decisions about your resources?

2. Cycles of Behavior (page 65)

“Attitudes determine thoughts; thoughts govern feelings; and feelings guide actions. Those actions, of course, reinforce our attitudes.”

- Q: What are the primary attitudes that you have about: God, your resources, and your role in God’s kingdom?
- Q: How do you see these attitudes affecting your actions?

3. The Same Old Ruts (page 65)

“No matter how hard we try, we fall into the same ruts. We make the same mistakes. We can’t break the cycle of human sin—unless we allow Christ to break it for us.”

- Q: What evidence bears witness that you have allowed Jesus Christ to break the cycle of sin in your life?

Q: If your behavior continues to display a cycle of sin in certain areas, are you willing to give Jesus control of these areas?

4. Submission: Yielding to God (page 66)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” (Romans 12:1)

Q: Paul says, “*in view of God’s mercy.*” What is *your* view of God’s mercy?

Q: In what ways are you offering your body to God as a living sacrifice?

Q: What keeps you from offering yourself to God?

5. Loving Gifts (Page 66)

“We don’t make empty gifts with our hands, but full and loving gifts with our hearts in an ‘I want to obey’ attitude toward God.”

Q: What is the difference between an “empty” gift and a “full and loving” gift?

Q: When do you most often find yourself giving an “empty” gift, and when do you give a “full and loving” gift?

6. Hunger: Consuming God’s Word (page 66)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2)

Q: In what ways is the Word of God transforming you?

Q: In what ways can you integrate God’s Word into your life in a more meaningful way?

Q: What is the great benefit promised to you in this verse when you are transformed by the renewing of your mind?

7. More and More Like Christ (page 67)

“We really have two options: conformity or transformation. In conformity, we become one more product of a hopeless world; in transformation, we become

more and more like Christ every day—more and more the person he has designed us to be.”

Q: Do you think it is really an either/or proposition: conformity OR transformation? Why or why not?

Q: Why is conformity easier than transformation?

Q: Do you *really* desire to be transformed?

Q: Whom do you know who is living a *transformed* life? What do you see that makes you believe this person is *transformed*?

8. Heaven-Driven: A Forever Mindset (page 68)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

Q: What do you think it means to “*set your hearts on things above*”?

Q: What are the things in your life that are “heaven driven”?

Q: In what ways do your attitudes and lifestyle need to change to reflect a “heaven-driven” mind-set?

9. Transformed! (page 69)

“An earthly attitude is likely to be, I would like to be comfortable today. An eternal attitude would be, I would like to be useful to God today, regardless of comfort. An earthly attitude might be, this new acquaintance is unlikely to be someone who can further my personal ambitions. An eternal attitude will be, this new acquaintance is beloved by God. What can I do to be his or her servant?”

Q: Can you identify an earthly attitude in your own life that needs to be transformed into an eternal attitude? What is it?

Q: How can you change this attitude to focus on eternal realities?

10: Love and Compassion: The People Factor (page 69)

“For Christ’s love compels us ...” (2 Corinthians 5:14)

- Q: Are you “compelled” by the love of Christ? How does your behavior exhibit this?
- Q: What other motivations compel us at times?
- Q: What do you think is the outcome of behavior that is compelled by the love of Christ?

11. Love that Grows (page 70)

“In *KingdomNomics*, we expect to grow in love and compassion with every day that goes by.”

- Q: In what ways do you see God’s love and compassion growing in your life?
- Q: If you are not growing, what is stunting your growth? What steps do you need to take in order to experience a change?

12. Gratitude: A Thanksgiving Spirit (page 70)

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

“In *KingdomNomics*, we cultivate an attitude of gratitude in *all* things.”

- Q: When in your life have you experienced difficulty? What was your response?
- Q: How can you cultivate an attitude of gratefulness in the midst of difficulty?
- Q: Can you think of any biblical role models who displayed gratefulness in times of adversity? Who are they and what did they do or say?
- Q: What steps can you take to prepare yourself for difficult times?

13. Burden or Blessing? (page 71)

“People allow their resources to become burdens, when all that we have should be seen as blessings.”

- Q: Are there any resources of time, talent, or treasure that you feel are a burden? Make a list and try to find at least one blessing in each item. Ask God to transform your mind about these opportunities!

14. Contentment: Genuine Satisfaction (page 71)

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” (Philippians 4:12)

- Q: How would you rate your attitude of “contentment” in the areas of your God-given time, talent, and resources?
- Q: Think of a time in which you were in need of something. Where was your focus—on what you didn’t have, or what you did have?
- Q: How can you adjust your thinking to concentrate on the eternal things God has provided?

15. It All Belongs to God!

“This kingdom attitude comes from the profound realization that God owns everything. If I own nothing, and he owns everything, why should I lose any sleep over the realm of ‘mine’?”

- Q: What is your response to the idea that God owns “everything”?
- Q: What in your life do you like to think of as “mine”?
- Q: How can your attitude be transformed into one that allows God to control *all* of your resources?

16. Expectancy: Future Faith (page 73)

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.” (Mark 11:22-23)

“Most Christians don’t live with a sense of godly anticipation.”

- Q: What would be different in your life if you approached each day with a “sense of godly anticipation”?
- Q: What things are you expecting God to do today? On what truths are your expectations based?

17: Expecting God to Bless (page 74)

“The life of *KingdomNomics* is a life of daily faith that something wonderful is just around the corner. With God, this is always true. He ‘is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us’ (Ephesians 3:20).”

Q: Do you truly embrace this concept?

Q: If not, what would be different in your life if you did?

Q: What examples can you find in scripture of times when God did more than people asked or imagined?

Creating the Echo

In what ways can you begin to incorporate *one* concept or new idea from this chapter into your everyday life? Ask God to give you a heart that is tuned in to *his* desires.

8

THE INVESTMENT PLAN

Principle (page 76)

“KingdomNomics requires an investment in God’s plan.”

1. You’re Going Somewhere! (page 77)

“All roads eventually lead to specific destinations.”

Q: What road are you on? Where is it leading you?

Q: Are you happy with the destination? If not, what can you do to turn around and get on a different road?

2. God Is Purposeful (page 78)

“Plan and purpose are concepts that flow beautifully through the entire Bible....There is nothing random or spontaneous about our God and his works. He is purposeful in all things.”

Q: In what ways do you see God’s master plan weaved throughout the Old and New Testaments?

Q: In what way have you seen God’s purpose worked out in your life and in the lives of those around you?

3. God’s Purposes Prevail (page 78)

“Once we decide to place God at the center of our lives, then we realize that his purposes prevail, and it makes sense to adopt His plans for us.... We realize that we’ll have various plans and initiatives and objectives in life, but the key is to bring all of them into conformance with the Lord’s great over-arching purpose.”

Q: Have you ever considered these ideas? In what ways have you embraced them? In what ways have you resisted them?

Q: Is there any area of resistance that you need to turn over to God right now? What’s holding you back? Take some time to do so.

4. Designed for a Specific Purpose (page 79)

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10).

“If God has special things for me to do, then it follows that he must have given me special gifts or abilities to help me do them. God is intentional in all that he does—he *always* has a plan, including the details of how I should be serving him. That means I have gifts and talents, and these are the leading indicators of what God wants me to do.”

Q: What gifts and talents do you have?

Q: How are you using these gifts and talents?

Q: Are there ways you can/should be allowing God to use them for his purposes?

5. God’s Plans for *You!* (page 80)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11).

“Consider what that one verse means for your life:

1. God has a plan perfectly formulated with your name on it.
2. It’s a *good* plan. He didn’t create you to be miserable, but to be fruitful.
3. God has reserved for you a future filled with hope.”

Q: What are your thoughts about the above three points?

Q: What assumptions can you make about God’s character when considering these points?

“Further, we can venture certain conclusions from this plan:

1. God’s plan was written long before you were born. (Jeremiah 1:5)
2. God’s plan for you is bound up with his plans for others. (Romans 8:28)
3. God’s plan is built upon your gifts and talents. (Ephesians 2:10)
4. God’s eternal purpose brings together your plan with those of others. (Proverbs 16:9)
5. God will guide you as you attempt to follow his will. (Proverbs 16:3)”

Q: As you consider these principles, what applications can you make to your own life?

Q: Has God allowed you to see areas in which he is working out his plan in your life?
What are they?

6. Free to Please God (page 81)

“If I soak in his presence, sow his Word to the Spirit, and let the Spirit flow through my mind and heart, I cannot fail to please him. He’s not interested in hiding his will from me—why wouldn’t he want me to know what he has in store for me?

So I’m freed to do what I do well, and to find out how I can please him with those skills....

Then, as I make my plans in prayer and through the knowledge of the Word, he will guide me toward the things he wants me to do.”

Q: Which phrases in this passage encourage you today?

Q: How is God directing you regarding your skills and present resources?

7. John Wesley’s Stewardship Principle (page 83)

Gain all you can.
Save all you can.
Give all you can.

Q: What do you think of this principle?

Q: What might happen in your life if you were to adopt this principle as a guide for your own life?

8. Intentionality (page 84)

“Therefore I try to stay as close to the Lord as I can, immersing myself in his Word and the flow of the Holy Spirit every day. I focus on his purposes, and ask him what he wants me to do, where he wants me to focus. In the course of the day, I continue to pray about opportunities to serve him in some way.”

Q: In what ways are you intentional about doing what God desires for you every day?

Q: How could you develop more intentionality?

9. Focus (page 85)

“It’s amazing just how many questions and puzzles and problems drain away from everyday existence when we know exactly what we’re setting out to accomplish. I want consistently to do whatever honors God and pleases him. I want to invest my time and my resources with a Great Commission focus.”

Q: Where is your focus these days in regards to your time, your talent, and your treasure?

Q: Are there ways in which you see God carrying out the Great Commission? Could your time, talent and treasure be used to join him in some way?

10. A Clear Investment Plan (page 86)

“A great *KingdomNomics* principle, then, is to ask God to help you create the clear, focused investment plan that serves him best....

God has drawn up the plan. He has given you the gifts. And best of all, he will go along with you and help you fulfill it. Life is beautiful when it is focused, and when it is focused upon pleasing him. Believe me; it will please you, too.”

Q: What is your life focused on? God’s will or your own?

Q: Are you willing to let God call the shots when it comes to how you should be using all of your resources?

Q: Have you asked God to create your investment plan? If not, won’t you do so now?

Creating the Echo

What one thing do you know God has purposed for your life? In what ways are you allowing God to use you to advance his kingdom?

9

A RICHER EXPERIENCE



Principle (page 88)

“KingdomNomics is being heavenly minded and earthly sensitive.”

1. Made for Eternity (page 89)

“We are made of flesh and blood, placed in bodies that will last a few decades before returning to dust. But we are unique among all living creatures in that we are spiritual beings as well. We have souls; we are made for eternity; and we survive the death of the body. Paul writes that ‘our citizenship is in heaven’ (Philippians 3:20).”

Q: What do you think of the concept that “we are made for eternity”?

Q: Does knowing that your body “will only last a few decades before returning to dust” inspire you to make any changes in the focus of your life? If so, what?

2. Citizens of Heaven (pages 89 and 90)

“This world is not the “main event” for us. Our true destination is an eternal one. ... On the other hand, we don’t sit waiting for heaven to begin. God has work for us to do here and now. We are here to bring glory to his name and people into his kingdom.”

“I set my mind on eternal things, as the Scripture instructs me, but I live and work in the world around me based on perspectives from that heavenly world.”

Q: Have you ever considered the work you have to do here on earth in light of your citizenship in heaven? What has this taught you?

Q: How do you see God bringing glory to his name through your work? (Remember that this might not always be immediately visible.)

3. Rich in Spirit (page 91)

“When we speak of a richer experience, we have a broader meaning of rich in spirit. We’re discussing new kinds of joy that would never be possible apart from investing our lives in the kingdom of God. We don’t set out to please ourselves—we set out to please God. But in the end, we find happiness, contentment, purpose, and fulfillment.”

Q: When have you experienced joy in giving?

Q: How does an investment in the kingdom of God bring you happiness? Contentment? Purpose? Fulfillment?

4. Rewards (pages 91-92)

“When we live for worldly values, the petty things we pursue produce petty rewards. But when we live with a kingdom perspective, the rewards are gracious and surprising.”

Q: What kinds of “petty” things have you pursued?

Q: How would you describe a “petty reward”?

Q: When have you experienced a gracious or surprising reward?

Q: What are you living for—the world or the Kingdom?

5. God’s Economy (page 92)

“Nothing done in God’s name ever passes away; it leaves a mark in eternity.”

Q: Do you tend to think of the resources that you give to God’s kingdom as a personal loss?

Q: Have you ever invested a resource (time, talent, or treasure) in some kind of ministry and felt that it was a “waste”?

Q: If the above statement is true, what changes do you need to make in your attitudes and actual giving?

6. Greed (page 94)

“The joy of obedience causes the sin of greed to lose its grip.”

Q: When do you most often experience the sin of greed?

Q: When have you experienced the joy of obedience in regards to your giving?

7. Generous Giving (page 95)

“Genuine, generous giving—so often quiet and anonymous—helps us to experience God and know his joy.”

Q: Why do you think giving helps us to experience God?

Q: Have you participated in genuine, generous giving? How did it affect your relationship with God? What did God reveal to you through it?

8. Role Models (pages 96–98)

• Abram

“Abram learned from God that this relationship was the most important factor in his life.”

Q: On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how important to you is your relationship with God?

Q: What do you think are the characteristics of a strong relationship? Are any of those characteristics part of your relationship with God?

• Job

“Job teaches us that everything is sourced in God. Knowing him is greater than any earthly treasure. God himself is our wealth. When misfortune began to consume Job, it had no ultimate effect, because Job was consumed by God.”

Q: Who do you turn to when life is hard?

Q: Do you worship and thank God in the bad times as well as the good?

Q: What lessons can you learn from Job in responding to adversity?

• David

“David was a mighty king. He had wealth of every kind at his disposal. And yet for him, all of life, all of light came from God and God alone.”

Q: Do you view your treasure as coming from God or coming from your own hard work?

Q: What is keeping you from allowing God to be your everything?

• **Solomon**

“Solomon, too, had great wisdom and wealth and power, yet he knew that there was one source of life and meaning and goodness.”

Q: What lesson about having a relationship with God can we learn from Solomon?

• **Jesus Christ**

“Jesus tells us that the Spirit gives life.”

Q: In what ways has the Spirit given you life?

Q: Look up John 6:63. What does the rest of the verse say? How does this apply to your life?

• **Paul**

“Paul nicely summarizes the ‘consumed’ life—pushing heavenward with every moment and every impulse, fully devoted to pleasing God.”

Q: In what way are you “pushing heavenward”?

Q: How can you be more fully devoted to pleasing God?

Creating the Echo

What steps can you take to become more heavenly minded and earthly sensitive?

10

THE PATH TO SIGNIFICANCE



Principle

“KingdomNomics is Kingdom driven.”

1. **Becoming Like Christ** (page 101)

“When we begin to follow Christ, and begin to soak our minds and hearts in his Word, we begin a process of total change, becoming like Christ. The Holy Spirit begins a long makeover process that lasts the rest of our lives.”

Q: In what ways are you becoming like Christ?

Q: The Bible calls this process “sanctification.” What Bible verses can you find related to sanctification?

Q: What is God’s goal through this process?

2. **“Put On” Christ** (pages 101–102)

“As we cooperate with the work of the Spirit, we begin to resemble Jesus more and more each day, seeing our surroundings as he sees them; responding as he would respond. We help the process along by daily decisions to ‘put on’ Christ—as we might don our daily attire....

There have been many occasions when I’ve realized I was thinking an unworthy thought, or developing an attitude that would not please my Lord. When I catch myself doing that, I make a decision of the will to let Christ take charge. It’s like getting out of my chair, walking across the room, and putting on a white jacket that completely changes my appearance—except that ‘putting on Christ’ changes me on the inside. I can choose to have his mindset, through the Holy Spirit.”

Q: What steps can you take to be more mindful of “putting on Christ” each and every day?

Q: Practice making decisions of your will today to let Christ take charge. What are the results? How were you and others affected by these decisions?

3. Caring About Others (page 102)

“We can’t be small-minded anymore, caring only about ourselves, our family, our cozy neighborhood. God loves the world, and so do we. He gave his only son, and we give our only lives. ... So yes, we care about the other side of town, and we care about the other side of the world.”

Q: How much do you care about others?

Q: How far away from you does your care extend: in your neighborhood, past your own church, into your community, throughout the world?

Q: How can you begin to develop an interest beyond your current comfort zone?

4. Deep Gladness (page 104)

“So we don’t pursue impact for the ordinary reasons of fame or impressing someone. We don’t pursue it out of sense of obligation. We’re chasing that deep gladness that comes when we address the needs God has set before us.”

Q: What needs has God set before you?

Q: How have you addressed those needs?

Q: Are there unaddressed needs that God is directing to you

5. Preparation for Impact (page 105)

“God has a process for preparing us for impact.... He wants us to take what we have and multiply it. If you have people-related talents—network. If you have financial resources—invest. If you have creative talents—expand them so that, in some way, the most possible people have an opportunity to become followers of Jesus.”

Q: What do you have that God can use?

Q: Are you *willing* to let him use it?

Q: In what ways are you expanding your time, talent and treasure?

6. Kingdom Logistics (page 106)

“In kingdom logistics, God brings us all together to work for the common purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission. Your gift may seem small taken alone, but it fits into his plan; it only needs to snap into place beside the gifts of others.”

- Q: How have you experienced this principle of “working together”?
- Q: What blessings have you experienced when working along with others?
- Q: What opportunities do you have for joining together with others to make a bigger impact?

7. The Big Picture (page 107)

“We tend to think of ourselves as individuals, and we are. But we are also part of the immense tapestry, the big picture of God carrying out his purpose through human history.... So we find our great sense of life purpose in locating our precise place in that tapestry, what our role must be, who else it must involve, and where it must be carried out.”

- Q: Spend time in persistent prayer asking God where he can best use your unique talents and resources. How is he directing you?
- Q: What opportunities are before you where can you invest your time, talent, or treasure in something greater than yourself?

8. God’s Plan (page 108)

“His plan is perfect from his perspective. From ours, of course, it is full of bottlenecks, empty slots, seemingly unbreakable walls, and dire personnel shortages.”

- Q: What are the specific things that sometimes make it difficult for you to trust in God’s plan?
- Q: How have you experienced God overcoming what seemed like insurmountable obstacles in the past?
- Q: What examples can you find in the Bible of times when God overcame obstacles that seemed insurmountable to people?

9. Small Ambitions (page 109)

“As Frances Xavier once put it, “Give up your small ambitions.” This life is all you have. Why not live it for the greatest possible goal?”

Q: Honestly, what are some of your small ambitions?

Q: Are you willing to let God replace your ambitions with his? If so, take some time to tell him so now.

Q: If not, what's holding you back?

Creating the Echo

Q: What makes you *feel* significant? In light of what you read in this chapter, are you yielding yourself to the Lord so that he can accomplish something that truly is significant through you? What needs to change in your life in order for you to measure your significance by God's standards?

11

ETERNAL DIVIDENDS



Principle (page 110)

“*KingdomNomics* has a forever focus.”

1. Echo into Eternity (page 111)

“What we do in life echoes in eternity!”
(Roman General Maximus in the movie *Gladiator*)

“*What happens here has eternal repercussions.*”

“This is our final *KingdomNomics* principle: We live for eternal results, for ultimate glory.”

Q: What is your reaction to this concept?

Q: What actions have you taken during the course of this study to change your focus to eternal results?

Q: What results have you seen from this change of focus?

2. An Eternal View (page 111)

“Most people don’t understand the Bible’s view of eternity. They understand that there is a physical world, the one in which we live and age and finally die. And they realize there is the eternal world that follows, bound by heaven and hell, but not physical locations or the passing of time. They see it as a “someday” place, something not really real until we get there. ... However, it’s important to understand that eternal reality isn’t confined to being a *someday* thing. It is also a *now* thing.”

Q: What is your view of eternity?

Q: How are your actions today affecting eternity, both for yourself and for other people?

3. Spiritual Reality (page 112)

“You may look at yourself in a mirror and think, “I’m not much to look at, and I have bad habits, and there are a million things wrong with me.” But in the reality of the heavenly realms, you are perfect—because you are cleansed of every sin and forgiven. When God looks at you, he sees the perfection of Christ.”

Q: Have you believed in Christ and received forgiveness for your sin?

Q: Is there anything you need to do to begin to embrace the truth outlined in the above quote?

4. Ultimate Reality (page 113)

“Eternity is real; eternity is now; and what we do here makes a difference there. ... This world is not all there is; what we see before us is genuine and it’s very important, but it’s not the ultimate reality! It’s not even the *lasting* reality. All that we see will pass away, but we happen to be eternal creatures; heaven is our true destiny.”

Q: What has been your past understanding of eternity?

Q: Is this something you need to study more? Take some time to study what the Bible says about eternity, perhaps by a word search on that word.

5. Things Above (page 113)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1–3)

Q: What does it mean that your life is “hidden with Christ in God”?

Q: What are the “things above” in your life right now?

6. Motives (page 113)

“Every day is filled with choices. And it’s not just about the decisions you make, but why you make them.”

Q: What tends to be your greatest motivator?

Q: How do *your* motivators affect your *KingdomNomics* approach to life?

7. Rewards (page 114)

“When we do things for the kingdom, which is invisible, our reward is in heaven.

This is why Paul tells us that God ‘has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ’ (Ephesians 1:3). The real blessings, the real rewards, are not of this world. They are eternal; they are invisible.

You might ask, ‘Well, why would I want to do anything for *invisible* rewards? Isn’t that like being paid in imaginary money?’

I would turn the question back in your direction—why do anything for rewards that are fleeting?”

Q: What rewards have you received in this life? How long did or will those rewards last?

Q: When you die, how many of the things you have accumulated in this life will go with you?

Q: What are you currently pursuing that is fleeting?

8. Everlasting Impact (pages 114-115)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

“The things we do for God and his kingdom are everlasting.”

Q: Are you storing up treasures on earth?

Q: What are you pursuing that will last into eternity?

Q: Is your heart more focused on things of the earth or eternity? Why?

9. God Sees (page 115)

“God is always looking.... When you quietly commit an act of kindness, or make an anonymous donation, it’s not anonymous to God.”

“(God) is in a position to see everything that is done. He numbers the hairs on our own heads. Therefore we must stop living for the opinions of others, and begin

living for the opinion of heaven, where the heart is known for what truly lies inside it.”

Q: What matters more to you, the opinion of those around you, or God’s opinion?

Q: Do you believe that God can see everything you do? How does this affect your behavior?

Q: What are you doing that no one else is really noticing, but that is pleasing to God?

10. Live By Faith (page 116)

“Our faith is based on truth, not some vague aspiration. We *know* God is good. We *know* Christ has defeated death and broken open the door to that eternal world, and we live based on that.”

Q: How do you *know* that God is good? What scripture and personal experience supports that statement?

Q: In what ways is your life reflecting the truths in this quote?

11. A Forever Focus (pages 117-118)

“I have a forever focus. Therefore I live by faith and not by sight. I align my life with rules and standards that don’t always fit in with those of this world. I don’t seek to have all my reward here, though there are, in fact, many rewards even in this life. God is good now, and he is good in the heavenly realms.”

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Q: Think about someone you know who is living with a forever focus. What qualities do they have?

Q: Are you living with a forever focus? How is this manifested in your life?

12. Kingdom Investment (page 119)

“I want to give as much as I can, as frequently as I can, for the most God-pleasing purposes I can, in as many different settings as I can.”

Q: What would happen in your life and with your resources if you would begin to approach each day in this way?

Q: What practical steps can you take to accomplish this objective?

13. Be Victorious (page 119)

“Any God-pleasing act is a victory in the invisible world: the heavenly realms.”

Q: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Q: What percentage of your actions do you think are pleasing God? How can that percentage be increased?

Q: Is anything done in our own effort God pleasing? What does please God?

14. Send It Ahead (page 120)

“They say you can’t take it with you, and that’s certainly true. What they forget to mention, however, is that you can send it on ahead.... It’s kingdom investment: what we do in life echoes in eternity.”

Q: What does the Bible say about building up treasures in heaven? Is this a good thing or a bad thing?

Q: What have you done in your life to date that will echo in eternity?

Creating the Echo

What step(s) do you need to take so the resources you’ve been given will echo in eternity?

12

DEVELOPING YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



Principle (page 122)

“KingdomNomics has a forever focus.”

1. What if ...? (pages 123 and 124)

“It’s clear that we live in times of turbulence. Each following day on the calendar looms as a question mark. ... As a result, we must live each day asking ourselves, “What if today were my last day? How would I want to spend it? What would my kingdom investment portfolio look like?”

- Q: Would a look at your checkbook reveal a focus on yourself and now or on others and eternity?
- Q: Have you experienced the death of someone close to you? If so, what thoughts did it stir in you?
- Q: Spend some time thinking seriously about how your approach to life and to the people and things around you would change if you knew you were going to die today. Does this highlight any changes for you that you need to make?

2. Focus and Conviction (page 124)

“We can’t afford to take our eyes off the Lord and his Word. And we can’t afford to delay in action upon our convictions.”

- Q: Do you feel that your focus is constantly on the Lord and his Word? What evidence supports this? If not, what is distracting you and how can you redirect your focus?
- Q: What has God directed you to do that you are hesitating to do? What step can you take today to yield to him in this area?

3. Balanced Decision-making (page 124)

“I must be thoughtful and balanced in my decision making, giving what I can and living as if today *may* be the last day, yet being ready to care for my family if there is indeed a tomorrow, as there has been every day up to this one.”

Q: In what ways is your decision making in balance?

Q: In what areas of your life do you need to experience some change in order to achieve balance?

4. The Great Race

“What, then, is this earthly life, if the next one is our true destiny? The Bible characterizes it as a great race toward a finish line that marks the beginning of the fullness of eternal life—heaven itself.”

Q: In what ways are you taking what is temporal and leveraging it for the advancement of the kingdom?

Q: How would you say you are doing in this great race?

5. Do It (page 127)

“I’m always aware that we must get beyond talking and teaching and reading, and focus on the *doing*. So many of the parables of Jesus are about people who waited one day too long, workers who didn’t get busy in the fields soon enough, or homeowners who weren’t ready for the burglar. At some point we have to get up and do something.”

Q: Are you just learning and reading, or taking action as well?

Q: What one step does God want you to take *today* to advance his kingdom?

6. Eternal Reality (pages 127-128)

“I pray that you’re far less prone to the terrible illusion that what we can see and hear and touch is all there is. The eternal realities, the kingdom realities, are the ones that eventually define us.”

Q: How can you become more attuned to eternal reality?

Q: How do you think you would be defined by eternal realities at this point in your life?

7. Invest It All (page 128)

“I hope that you’re making plans to organize your entire life as an investment in the kingdom of God—yourself, your relationships, your actions, your values, and your possessions.”

Q: How are you investing in the kingdom of God in your relationships? Your actions? Your values? Your possessions?

Q: What steps are you taking to have a greater impact on the kingdom of God?

8. Press On (page 131)

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-13)

Q: What does “pressing on” look like in your life?

Q: What chief goal are you working toward in your life?

9. Echo into Eternity (page 132)

“Why not give up your small ambitions? Look around you. Everything you see will be gone someday. The Lord and his Word will remain, souls will remain, and the things you do and give for him today—they will remain, too. Regardless of where God has placed you or how many resources he has entrusted to you, choose to be one of the strategic few who will make the greatest difference for the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom.”

Q: What changes have you made in your life as you have worked through this material that have made you “one of the strategic few who will make the greatest difference”?

Q: What changes still need to be made? What is your plan for making these changes?

Q: Think of those around you whom you know and love. How can you share these principles with them to help their lives echo into eternity?

Creating the Echo

What plan have you put together in order to use all your resources for God's glory? What steps will you take in the next month? In the next year? In the next five years?

In what ways have you incorporated *KingdomNomics* principles into your life? What difference is it making *to you*? What difference is it making in God's kingdom.

PHIL'S BIO AND MORE RESOURCES



This *KingdomNomics Study Guide* has been developed for use by individuals and small groups as a companion piece to the *KingdomNomics* book.



Sign up for Phil's devotional series, *KingdomNomics Applied: 31 Principles for Eternal Significance*. These devotions have been prepared to help you reflect even more upon your use of the time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to you. The repercussions of the decisions that you make today *will* echo into eternity. Continue to stay focused and fuel your passion for living for Christ as you use all that you have to glorify him.

After you have completed the 31-day devotional, sign up to receive the free series *KingdomNomics Echo: Daily Insights for Creating Your Echo Into Eternity*. This 92-day series, using content from the *Study Guide*, introduces a principle and daily quote from the *KingdomNomics* book, and provides questions to challenge you to live out that principle in your life.

Phil also has a weekly blog, called "*Reflections of a Kingdom Boy*," where he shares more practical insights about how to create your echo into eternity. See his latest blog posts at KingdomNomics.com/blog.

To find these resources, check out the KingdomNomics website at KingdomNomics.com and the Facebook page at facebook.com/KingdomNomics.

Phil has spent a lifetime learning about and living out the answer to this single question: How can I enjoy life now, and still live a life that will echo into eternity?

He is the former CEO and President of T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil Co., and Phillips Resources Inc. (recently purchased by Exxon Mobil Corp.).

Phil graduated from Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He knows what it is to make wise business decisions and to reap the benefits of those choices. In addition, he has learned what it means to make wise choices in regard to the use of personal wealth and how every choice can reap an eternal dividend.