

We have spent a lot of time thinking about 'The Kingdom of God' in our weekly youth forum activities. We have read the word 'The Kingdom of God is like...' or 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...' many times over the past few months and in today's Gospel reading we hear something different. Read Mark 1:9-15.

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As we start to think about Easter, we get to look for the Kingdom of God in its fullness. If you were with us on Saturday (or if you are going to be with us on Saturday) for our food drive, you are going to get a prime look into how the Kingdom of God is different than the world that we live in.

Food insecurity is a major problem in the world and that includes the USA. Here are some statistics provided by <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

- Before the pandemic began, 35 million people in the United States struggled with food insecurity, 10 million of those were children.
- Since the pandemic, that has increased to 50 million people, 17 million of which are children.
- Children are more likely to be food insecure than any other group in the US.
- Rural counties make up 87% of the counties with the highest food insecurity.
- 86% of counties with the highest percentage of children at risk for food insecurity are rural.
- African American households are more than twice as likely to face food insecurity than white households.
- 8 out of 10 of the counties with the highest food insecurity rates are at least 60% African American.
- 1 in 6 Latino households struggle with food insecurity.

What about these statistics are surprising to you?

Do you think that hunger is an issue in the Kingdom of God?

What are some reasons that people face hunger?

How does a food drive combat hunger?

How does a food drive combat the reasons people face hunger?