



Christian Education  
Week 2019

# CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

Christian Education Week is a time to remember the sacrifice of those who founded our schools and the continuous sacrifice of those who sustain them. It is also a time to reaffirm our commitment to advance God's kingdom in the places we serve. Most importantly, it is a week to turn our eyes to heaven and glorify our God for the blessings that he provides and for his gift of Christian education.

When Jesus was 30, Satan tempted him to become king of the world. Jesus resisted, went immediately to Capernaum, and settled there. The Gospel says, "From that time on Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near,'" (Matthew 4:17). Jesus' ministry was singularly focused on the coming of the kingdom of God. This year our theme is "Citizens of the Kingdom."

Jesus said that the kingdom has come near. Other translations use the term *the kingdom is at hand or here*. The worldview of the schools that are part of Christian Schools International recognizes that the kingdom of God is here now. It is a present kingdom, not a kingdom that awaits us after we die.

If it is here, why do we not see it? Sin blinds us. Jesus said, "We have eyes, but do not see; ears but do not hear." It is our privilege in Christian schools to help those who cannot see to see. The kingdom advances when the people of God act like kingdom citizens and when God's shalom bathes our schools, homes, and churches. Jesus left the keys to the kingdom in the hands of his disciples. He has empowered his disciples to open the door so all may enter.

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The kingdom of God is an unstoppable force. Jesus won. God's kingdom is ever advancing. Our Christian schools are places where the good news is shared, where the next generation of disciples is being prepared for service, and where citizens of his kingdom are being equipped. Jesus teaches us to seek it: to put the kingdom first in our lives and in the lives of our children. That is the mission of the Christian school and the reason to celebrate God's gift of Christian education today.

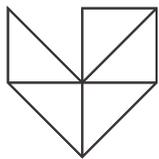
Jesus invites us to citizenship in his kingdom. The writer of Matthew focuses on the kingdom theme throughout the Gospel. In Matthew 5–7, the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew assembles the teachings of Jesus about kingdom citizenship into three chapters.

Matthew 5: 1–12 summarizes kingdom living. The first and last characteristics of kingdom citizenship end with the statement “for theirs is the kingdom.” Kingdom citizens love God above all. Kingdom citizens seek to put obedience to God first. Kingdom citizens understand that kingdom living requires unmatched sacrifice and commitments that the world could never understand. Kingdom citizens realize that kingdom living is a worthy calling along the difficult paths of life.

Give thanks to God today that he has given us Christian schools as places to advance his kingdom and that he has given us the good news of his ever-advancing kingdom to bring hope to the world. It is to glorify his name that we are called to kingdom citizenship.

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*Each school year Christian Schools International designates a week to be Christian Education Week. Member schools are invited to join in a celebration of God's gift of Christian schools. Our schools are established to glorify God, to recognize the lordship of Christ over every square inch of creation, and to nurture and equip students to become the next generation of those who answer the call to advance the kingdom of God across the globe. We have reason to remember and to celebrate God's blessings.*



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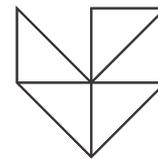
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