

# COVENANT & KINGDOM



# COVENANT KINGDOM TRIANGLES

## Brief Description:

God as Father establishes covenant with us, which gives us an identity as his children. Out of this identity flows our obedience to him. God as King gives us authority as his children. Out of this authority flows our power to do his mission.

### When to Use this Shape:

This is primarily an UP shape that helps us clearly see our identity in Christ and understand how our identity affects our IN and OUT. Use this shape when people in your huddle are trying to do Christianity/ministry out of their own strength and not out of God's empowerment and the identity he gives us. Use it when people in your huddle are failing to connect their identity as children of God with their call to the mission of God.

### Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*(We are saved by grace through faith; out of that flows our works - not the other way around)*

*Matthew 3:16-17, 4:1-25 (Jesus' Baptism where his identity is affirmed . . . his identity and authority is tested in the wilderness . . . out of his identity and authority he begins his ministry.)*

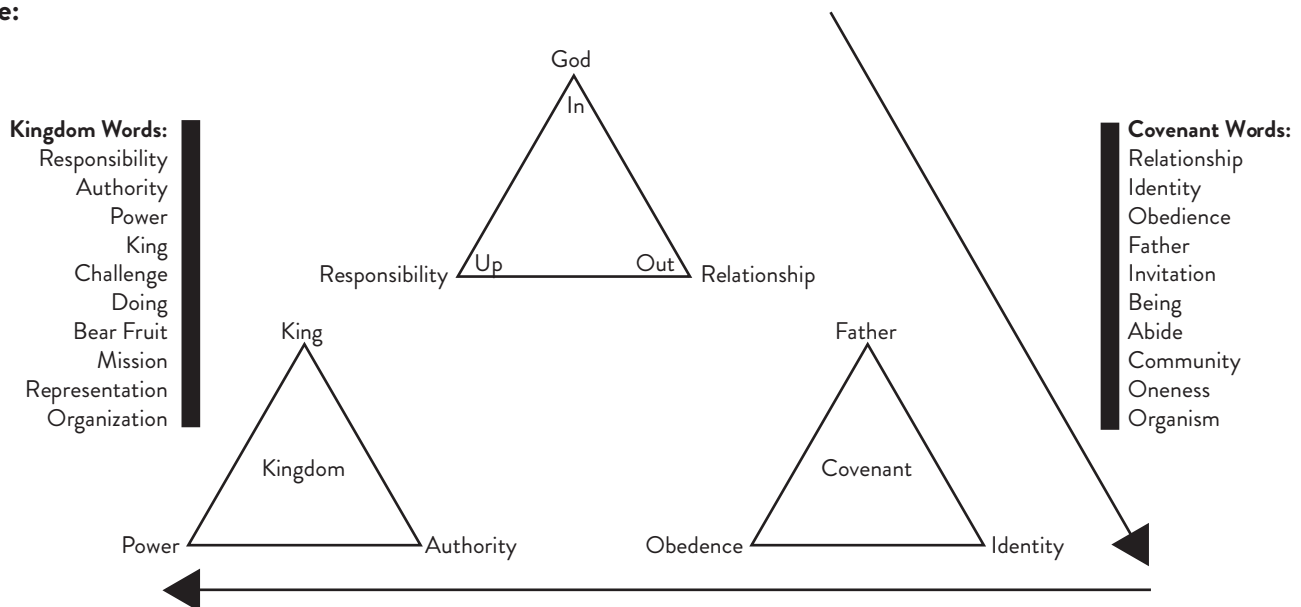
### Covenant: John 1:12

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

### Kingdom: 2 Corinthians 5:20

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

### Shape:



## Description:

This shape is an expansion on the Up-In-Out Triangle. We know that we must have relationship with God, with other believers, and with non-believers in balance. The Covenant-Kingdom Triangles illustrate how our relationship with God gives us an identity in His family, which enables us to be ambassadors of His kingdom to those who aren't yet a part of his family.

Covenants are agreements that take two separated things and make them one. When a man and woman enter into marriage, the two become one. Likewise, when we accept Christ, we become one with God. Thus, our identity is found in being sons and daughters of God our Father. Our response to this new identity that God gives us is obedience. When we accept Christ, we accept him as Savior AND Lord. You cannot simply have Jesus as your Savior if you do not want to submit to Him as Lord. Out of our obedience, we begin to root out the sin in our lives, and to live by the Spirit. By the Spirit's strength, we can turn from our selfish desires and seek to love and serve others. In so doing, we unleash God's peace in our lives and the grace begins to flow through us to touch others with God's love. In a healthy relationship with God, any response to God's grace flows out of our gratitude for what God has first given us, not from some mistaken attempt to prove ourselves to God. So, response flows from gratitude, not obligation. And that motivation means everything.

The idea of Kingdom unfolds from the beginning of the Bible. When sin came into the Garden of Eden, the first covenant was broken and human beings lost their uninterrupted relationship with God. They also lost their ability to represent God as his royal emissaries. With the restoration of relationship through Abraham, the process of rebuilding our capacity to represent and even rule was begun. Kingdom living begins with the recognition that God is the King of his people, and King of the universe. When we act from a clear view of the authority God has given us, we exercise Kingdom power. As God's representatives, God works through us to do the sorts of things that only God can do to advance His Kingdom. However, we must be aware that our authority and power as members of God's kingdom are not meant for our personal advancement but for our humble service.

You may have noticed how important it is to recognize that obedience flows from our God-given identity in the Covenant Triangle. We obey when we humbly and joyfully accept the identity God has given us. It is likewise important to remember that the exercise of spiritual power needs to flow from our humble and joyful acceptance of the authority God has given us. Authority is about placing ourselves in the right place before God. As we humbly recognize his position and our own, he authorizes us to exercise power on his behalf.

A note about power: In the Kingdom triangle, we see that God gives us power to do His work and be His representatives. In electrical circuits, power is defined as voltage divided by resistance. As resistance goes down, power goes up. Thus, the less we resist God, the more we are empowered to do His will and His kingdom work.

Both covenant and kingdom must be in balance in our lives (relevant shapes: the Triangle and the Semicircle). Our kingdom responsibilities must flow out of our covenant identity. When things are out of balance or the flow is incorrect this can happen:

- Acknowledging covenant without doing kingdom. This leads to stagnation in personal growth and an ingrown, consumeristic church.
- Working in kingdom without drawing from covenant. Leads to our kingdom work being dry and joyless, or us being drained from trying to do kingdom work on our own power. Alternatively, we may become prideful about all we can accomplish on our own.
- Working in kingdom in order to try to earn our covenant position. This is trying to earn our salvation by works instead of receiving it by grace. This leads to shame and feeling like we're not enough.



## Application and discussion questions to ask in huddle:

Are you tempted to try to do “kingdom” work on your own effort, rather than drawing from your “covenant” relationship with God?

Are you tempted to rest in the comfort of your “covenant” relationship and not walk in obedience by employing the power given you to do your “kingdom” responsibilities?

In the list of covenant and kingdom words, what words best describe the way you relate to God? What words are difficult for you to relate to? Where is God asking you to grow?

Covenant questions: Where am I tempted to find my identity other than in God? Where do I struggle to obey God? Do I wrongly seek to gain approval and identity in God from obedience and good works?

Kingdom questions: Do I use my kingdom authority to advance myself and my leadership position, or do I use my authority to humbly serve others and advance the cause of Christ?

## Resources and Sources:

Covenant Triangle: <https://firstcoastmissional.org/23124-2/>

Kingdom Triangle: <https://firstcoastmissional.org/23132-2/>

<http://godsaintpath.com/3dm-taster>

[http://ctkanglican.com/CKC\\_Sermons/Media/Small%20Group%20Discussion%20Guide.pdf](http://ctkanglican.com/CKC_Sermons/Media/Small%20Group%20Discussion%20Guide.pdf)

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81RfwWJmUkw>

VERY GOOD 4 minute video, explaining the triangles in light of the overarching story of the Bible as well as focusing on Jesus' example

<https://vimeo.com/23804804> (1 hour teaching by Mike Breen)

