



What is it?

Exploration...wonder...discovery...mission...redemption...gospel...faith...disciple...community...vulnerability...healing...authenticity...conversation...love one another. Are these simply words or are these a way of living? We can probably define all these words with biblical knowledge, or these words can be believed and experienced by living them out, by **Being. True Growth is Knowing and Becoming**, and to **become**, one must **Be**.

The Kingdom Experience is a nine month pilgrimage of people sharing life together as we all take a walk with Jesus. Spiritual formation with Jesus seemed to revolve around inviting people to walk with Him, where He would take them into places and encounter people often outside their comfort zones. We will explore and experience people and ways of thinking that make us uncomfortable but also teach us to trust Jesus with all aspects of life.

On this journey, we will walk together as disciples of Jesus, growing in our love for God and our neighbors, and probably understanding our own journeys a little better. It is a chance to embrace the Kingdom of God here on earth as a true blend of theory and practice, coming together in intellectual searching and experiential discovery.

The Kingdom Experience is running from September 2017 through May 2018. We will meet every Sunday afternoon/evening from 4 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. There will also be additional trips planned throughout the year for retreats and various experiential opportunities. To participate, we ask that all participants have valid passports secured by October 15.

Financial Information

The tuition is \$600 per individual or \$1000 for married couples. This includes all books, study materials, most trips, and activities. A deposit of \$100 is due with your application and the remainder can be broken into at least \$75 payments due on the 15th of each month until balance is paid. You are welcome to pay your tuition early. Please note that tuition or donations toward tuition are not tax deductible.

Forms

Application and two reference forms.

One reference form is to be filled out by a pastor, LifeGroup leader, or ministry leader you volunteer with, the other by a friend. Please provide your references with an addressed stamped envelope so they can send the reference directly to the church.

Please include a \$100 refundable deposit with your application.

Your application and reference forms are very confidential and will only be read by staff that are directly involved in the interview process. Your answers in regards to sensitive areas of your past do not necessary disqualify you from the Kingdom Experience. Please answer all questions completely and legibly. Use this form, but attach additional papers as needed. After your application and references are received, you will be contacted to set up an interview. Please give your references ample time to complete the forms prior to the deadline. Complete applications are due September 3, 2017.



Application

Personal Information

Full Legal Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Phone: _____

Birth Date: _____

Gender: ____

Relationship Status:

Single_____ Are you currently dating anyone?_____

Separated__ Divorced__ Widowed__ Engaged__ (Date of Wedding: _____)

Married____ Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Do you have a passport? _____

Highest level of education attained:_____

Financial

I acknowledge that I have the financial means to apply for the Kingdom Experience and fully pay the tuition involved. I also understand this is not my tithe, but above and beyond.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Faith Experience

Briefly describe your journey with Jesus: past, present, and future?

How would you describe the lifestyle of following Jesus and being a disciple?

My image/concept of God is...

Why do you go to church?

What ministries are you involved in within the church and in the community?

Medical and Lifestyle Questions

Do you have any health concerns that may affect your participation in the Kingdom Experience?

What are your thoughts on counseling?

Have you used any narcotics, hallucinogens, or drugs not prescribed by a physician in the past 5 years? _____

Do you consume alcoholic beverages? _____ If so, how frequently? _____

Are you willing to give up a social habit if you determine it lessens your effectiveness as a follower of Jesus? _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____

Are you currently struggling with any addictions? _____

Kingdom Experience Reference Form

(Pastor, LifeGroup Leader, ministry team leader, or other spiritual leader in your life)

I, _____ have applied to be a part of the Kingdom Experience, beginning in the fall of 2017. I have referred you as someone who can give information concerning my character and other aspects of life. As a referee, we would appreciate your honest, straightforward answers evaluating both a personal assessment and liabilities. Your prompt cooperation in filling this out is greatly appreciated. Be assured that your reply will be held in strict confidence.

Reference Name: _____

Phone: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Relationship? _____

Please discuss the following areas, based on your knowledge of the applicant. If further space is needed, please attach additional sheets.

1. Is there any indication that the applicant's desire to participate in the Kingdom Experience has been significantly influenced by:

A. A desire to escape personal, family, or vocational situations? Yes / No

B. An unrealistic appraisal of what is involved in Christian service? Yes / No

If yes to either, please explain: _____

2. Has the applicant demonstrated ability to make decisions and follow through on them? Yes / No

If no, please explain: _____

3. How does the applicant respond to authority?

4. Can the applicant take responsibility and demonstrate leadership? Please give an example: _____

5. Comment on the applicant's...

A. Sensitivity to the needs, feelings, and attitudes of others: _____

B. Ability to work with others: _____

6. To your knowledge, how does the applicant respond under difficult circumstances? Please give examples. _____

7. Are you aware of any instance(s) of mental or emotional illness or difficulty which the applicant has had? Yes / No

If yes, please explain.

8. Do you have any reservations concerning the moral integrity of the applicant?

9. Tell us about any outstanding talent or ability the applicant may possess.

Signature _____ Date _____

Occupation _____

This form is an essential part of each participant's acceptance into the Kingdom Experience. Please mail this form directly to Keith White within 1 week if possible. The applicant should provide you with a stamped addressed envelope or you may drop it off at the Valparaiso Nazarene Church office during the week or at the VNC Information Center on Sunday mornings.

Kingdom Experience Reference Form

(Friend)

I, _____ have applied to be a part of the Kingdom Experience, beginning in the fall of 2017. I have referred you as someone who can give information concerning my character and other aspects of life. As a referee, we would appreciate your honest, straightforward answers evaluating both a personal assessment and liabilities. Your prompt cooperation in filling this out is greatly appreciated. Be assured that your reply will be held in strict confidence.

Reference Name: _____

Phone: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Relationship? _____

Please discuss the following areas, based on your knowledge of the applicant. If further space is needed, please attach additional sheets.

1. Is there any indication that the applicant's desire to participate in the Kingdom Experience has been significantly influenced by:

A. A desire to escape personal, family, or vocational situations? Yes / No

B. An unrealistic appraisal of what is involved in Christian service? Yes / No

If yes to either, please explain: _____

2. Has the applicant demonstrated ability to make decisions and follow through on them? Yes / No

If no, please explain: _____

3. How does the applicant respond to authority?

4. Can the applicant take responsibility and demonstrate leadership? Please give an example: _____

5. Comment on the applicant's...

A. Sensitivity to the needs, feelings, and attitudes of others: _____

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