

The Arrival Kit

A Guide for Your Journey in
the Kingdom of God

RALPH W. NEIGHBOUR, JR.



TOUCH PUBLICATIONS
Houston, Texas, U.S.A

*For my three sons
Ralph III, Rodney,
and Randall
on the journey
in the Lord.*

The Arrival Kit

Published by TOUCH® Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 7478
Houston, Texas, 77270 U.S.A.
800-735-5865 • www.touchusa.org

Copyright © 2011 by Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr.
First edition 1993, Revised in 2001. Vertical format created in 2011

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Printed in the United States of America.

International Standard Book Number: 978-1-880828-33-5

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the Holy Bible, New International Version Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission.

TOUCH® Publications is the book-publishing division of TOUCH® Outreach Ministries, headquartered in Houston, Texas.

Find us on the internet: <http://www.touchusa.org>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome To The Kingdom!	4
Week 1: Kingdom Lifestyles — Your New Family	10
Week 2: Kingdom Lifestyles — Let’s Take a Tour	20
Week 3: The Kingdoms of This World — What’s Old?	30
Week 4: The Kingdoms of This World — What’s New?	40
Week 5: The Servant Life: Equipped for Service	50
Week 6: The Servant Life: Touching God	60
Week 7: Personal, Please: Dealing with Strongholds	70
Week 8: Personal, Please: Dealing with Attitudes	84
Week 9: Facing the Powers: The Battle for Men’s Souls	94
Week 10: Facing The Powers: The Wrestling Match	104
Week 11: The Journey Beyond	114
Weekly Mentor’s Guide	124


*We suggest you use the New International Version
of the Bible when using this book.*

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM



Hi! I'm Ralph Neighbour. In reading Paul's letters, I realized he wrote about his personal experiences. So I have decided to write this material in the style of Paul, speaking directly to you and sharing my own life. The Christ Who dwells in me greets the Christ Who dwells in you — and makes us one! Let's become close friends as we spend these weeks together.

For the next eleven weeks, I'll be your equipper as you learn about our life in Christ. Here are suggestions to make our times together profitable:

- **Read pages 5 through 9 right away. They're very important.**
- **Then, meet me every day, 5 days every week, at a specific time and place.**
- **Give yourself 15 minutes for our times together, more if you desire.**
- **Keep your Bible handy. We'll be looking up lots of scripture!**
- **You'll need a pen. Faithfully complete the activities marked with a: **
- **Remove the Bible memory verses from the centerfold.**
- **Memorize two verses a week, reviewing those already learned.**

I do hope you have a person in your life who is discipling you. Your mentor should use the suggestions in the back of this book for your weekly equipping times.

IS THIS ALL THERE IS TO LIFE?

Did you decide to follow Christ because you saw you were not making the most of your life? Were you searching for a better way? Perhaps you were extremely successful. You had no serious problems to solve. Life was good. Yet, something was missing. Perhaps you were tired of feeling empty inside.

Before you became a Christian did you ask yourself, "*Is this all there is to life?*"

You have now received a priceless gift — *a new, eternal life!* Before you accepted Christ, how many things did you do without God's guidance? Right now it may be impossible for you to imagine what your new life will be like.

I know a man who bought an expensive computer and never bothered to read the manual that came with it. It could do many amazing things, but he remained ignorant of its potential. After tinkering with it for a while, he set it aside. If he had

read the instructions, he would have been amazed by its potential. How sad! Don't do that with your new life in Christ. The Bible is your instruction book. We'll learn how to use it as we journey together.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LIFE

Are you ready to find freedom from anxiety, jealousy, fear, irritation, boredom, resentment, suffering, and *unhappiness*? Are you thinking, *"That's impossible!"* No! It is possible. Your new life in Christ makes it possible. It's one of the special privileges of being a Christian.

Many Christians (and probably many you know) are not experiencing the truths found in this guide. Christ's power should not be evaluated by observing them. Instead, consider the potential that is yours as a child of God.

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED TRUE HAPPINESS IN THE PAST?

I know you've tried hard! But it didn't last, did it? I know you're a sincere person (I hope you know that, too.) So, what's wrong?

Until now, have you believed happiness comes from outside yourself? Have you ever thought like this? *"I'd be happy if . . ."*

- *I felt better physically . . ."*
- *I had more money . . ."*
- *I had a better career . . ."*
- *I had better grades at school . . ."*
- *I had different parents, or a different marriage partner . . ."*
- *(or is it something different for your life?)*



In the box below, write what you have thought might bring you true happiness and peace:

A NEW CAR • A NICER HOUSE • A COLLEGE DEGREE • A TRIP ABROAD • A GOOD MOVIE
A TRUSTED FRIEND • MY OWN BUSINESS • A PROMOTION • A CHILD OF MY OWN
NEW FURNITURE • GOOD FOOD • FISHING • BECOMING FAMOUS • POWER OVER OTHERS
BEING RESPECTED • PORTFOLIO OF GROWTH STOCKS • NEW CLOTHES • BETTER PHYSIQUE
MOVING TO A NEW TOWN • A CD PLAYER • CONCERT TICKETS • GOOD SEX • LOTS OF PARTYING HUNTING TRIPS • A
COMPUTER • BIKING • BOWLING • MOUNTAIN CLIMBING • LOSING WEIGHT A NICER FACE • BETTER TORSO • MORE
MUSCLES • LOSING WEIGHT • LOTS OF CHOCOLATE • EQUALITY FAMILY SECURITY • FREEDOM • INNER HARMONY • A
WORLD OF BEAUTY • MATURE LOVE NATIONAL SECURITY • SOCIAL RECOGNITION • WISDOM • BECOMING INDEPENDENT •
BEING CREATIVE
BEING SELF-DISCIPLINED • A COMFORTABLE LIFE • SOMEONE TO SUPPORT ME • GOOD RETIREMENT

THE CAUSE OF ALL UNHAPPINESS

Are you ready to hear the solution?

It will sound so simple you may dismiss it without understanding how it applies to the very special conditions of your life. There is one basic cause behind all your unhappiness.

Your *expectations* create your unhappiness!

For example, you had an appointment and the person didn't show up. *You were angry!* Your friend made a promise to you and then broke it. *You were frustrated!*

Fear, jealousy, anxiety, irritation, resentment, sadness, disgust, hate — all these emotions are the result of feeling that something must be a certain way before you can feel happy.

Why do you let your happiness depend on people and events? The outside world of life events will *always* make you unhappy. You'll find peace for fleeting moments of time only!

WE HAVE BEEN WRONGLY PROGRAMMED

Computers are designed to do many things. They can become geniuses doing mathematics, or they can be used as a tool for web surfing and email. But what they actually do requires a *program* to tell them how to function.

Are you aware of the "*programs*" — mental habits and values — that you've put into your life since your birth? You collected most of them without realizing you were doing so!

For example, we were tiny babies when we first discovered that if we screamed loud enough someone would pay attention to us. As children, we observed the way our parents treated each other and we said, "*I want to act like that,*" or "*I'm never going to act like that!*" Most of our values were picked up like chicken pox: you may not know where they came from, but you certainly know it when you have them!



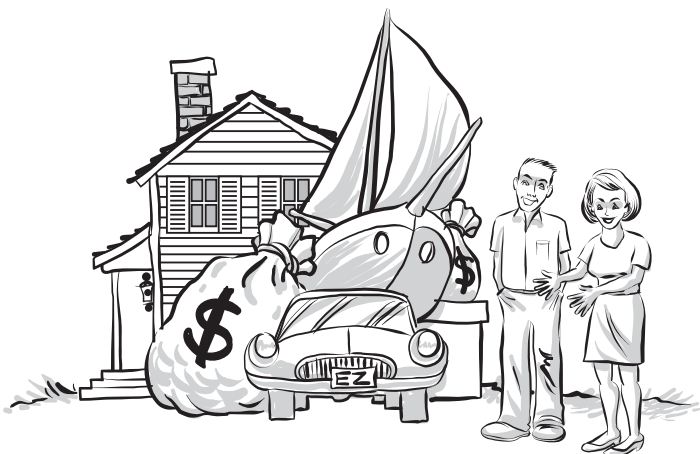
Think! Where did you pick up the following values?

VALUE:	SOURCE: PERSON, OR ?
Working hard	
Brushing your teeth	
Standing up for your beliefs	
Handling your anger	
Willingness to forgive others	
Mature love (sexual intimacy)	
Meaning of life	
Self-control	

WHAT VALUES HAVE YOU ACCEPTED TO BE TRUE?

. . . That you could have a happy life if you had more money, or more power, or more free time, or more sex, or more “stuff”? How much “stuff” have you accumulated already? (*And how much of it has already been thrown away?*)

After you worked so *hard* to acquire “something” to make you happy, did you immediately worry about losing or damaging it? How did you feel when a *newer model* came out? *Arrgh!*



WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU MADE?

You came to Jesus Christ and asked Him to give you a new life — right? You want to be in love with living.

You have taken the first step. You have not “turned over a new leaf”; instead, *you have turned over your life*. That is new!

A man received a valuable diamond from his uncle. He worried day and night that someone might steal the diamond. Soon he had dark rings under his eyes! His friend said, “What’s the matter with you?” “Oh,” he said, “I have this million dollar diamond. I am living in fear that someone will steal it from me.” The friend said, “I can help you! Let’s go to your bank.” They rented a safety deposit box. Protected by steel walls, the diamond was fully protected. The man went home and slept like a baby.

That’s what has happened to you. You have entrusted the priceless treasure of your life to the care of God’s Son. Now, for the first time, you can *rest!* You can trust Him with all you are.

WELCOME TO YOUR LIFE IN THE KINGDOM!

When you enter a foreign nation, your first task is to present your passport and get a visa. If your credentials are in order, you are permitted entry.

When you came to the Cross and asked Jesus to cleanse you with His blood, you entered His Kingdom. Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:12 that before you took this step “*you were separate from Christ, . . . without hope and without God in the world.*”

In Philippians 3:20, we read that *“our citizenship is in heaven.”* You are now a citizen in God’s Kingdom! Have you renounced your citizenship in the “kingdoms of this world”?

Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God 108 times. It was His passion. It’s important for you to learn all about the Kingdom of God, because you’ll spend the rest of your life — and all eternity — within it. Here are some important facts for you to remember:

THE WORD “KINGDOM” MEANS “REIGN”

Each time you learn about the *Kingdom* of God, substitute the word *reign* for it. A king owns everything in his kingdom completely — the people, the lands, and all the treasures. A king shares his possessions with *no one*. He *reigns* supreme.

Our Lord is not only our Savior, but also our Sovereign, reigning over us as the King of kings! In Luke 1:31-33, the angel said to Mary, *“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”* King Jesus reigns today!

TODAY, CHRIST’S KINGDOM EXISTS WHEREVER HE REIGNS

In Luke 17:21, Jesus explained that those who searched for His Kingdom in a *location* would never find it. He said, *“the kingdom of God is within you.”* When Christ comes to live in our lives, He *reigns* within us. Thus, the Kingdom is made up of all who have declared Him as Lord over their lives. Revelation 1:6 tells us Christ *“has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father.”* Therefore, not only are you *in* the Kingdom of God, but *also the Kingdom is in you, because Christ the King is in you!*

IN THE FUTURE, GOD’S REIGN WILL BE GEOGRAPHICAL

God will rebuild this planet as His glorious Kingdom. Peter wrote, *“The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat”* (2 Peter 3:10, 12). In Isaiah 65:17 God said, *“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.”* Since our King will return to reign over His Kingdom on earth soon, we should not waste our lives on things that will pass away. In the next eleven weeks, you will learn how to enjoy your new life in God’s Kingdom.

YOU WERE FIRST BORN TO FUNCTION IN THIS WORLD

When you were born, you were created with all the senses required to interact with the world around you. First of all, you were able to hear sounds and to taste and smell. You recognized the voice of your mother. Next, you were able to see light. Gradually, you focused your eyes. A while later, you developed the ability to hold objects in your hands. Then, you began to crawl and walk. Later, you began to mimic the language spoken by your parents.

Coordination of your physical senses made it possible for you to use your body in special ways and to reason with your mind. You passed from life as a little child to a young man or woman, finally becoming an adult. At an appropriate age, your reproductive system developed, making it possible for you to create others who are like yourself.

Along with all this, you became a responsible person. You were entrusted with tasks fitting your skills and abilities. You discovered you are a special person. You also may have decided that your *significance* is based on your *performance*. If so, you are a victim in one of Satan's strongest prison cells!

Living in Satan's kingdom has exposed you to evil. Perhaps you have collected a lot of scars from betrayal or rejection or suffered the stabbing pain caused by death. You may have learned to mistrust others and grown to expect to be disappointed by friends. You may have decided that in this world the ones who survive are those who protect themselves. Or, like the rest of us, you may have indulged yourself with luxuries, sex, or even substance abuse.

YOU ARE BORN AGAIN TO LIVE IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM!

When you came to the Cross to transfer the ownership of your life to Jesus Christ, you lacked the spiritual relationship needed to live in the Kingdom of God! Think about this Scripture: *"remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world"* (Ephesians 2:12).

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3, *"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."* In Matthew 13:15 He said, *"For this people's heart has become callused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes."*

When you were born the second time, it was a spiritual birth. God gave you a whole new set of spiritual senses, making life in the Kingdom possible. *For the first time in your life*, you can hear the voice of the Son of God. Now you can see eternal things. Now you can *walk* in the Spirit.

You must discover how Satan attacks in order to neutralize your Kingdom life. You must discover the way Christ empowers you to build up fellow citizens of His Kingdom. As you begin to grow, you will become a "spiritual father," introducing your friends and loved ones to your King. You will experience the joy of welcoming them into the supernatural world where Christ reigns as Lord of lords.

Are you ready? Let's begin our journey!

Week 1, Day 1
This Unit: Kingdom Lifestyles
This Week: Your New Family
Today: All Babies Have Relatives

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

God arranged His plan so no baby is ever born without a family. Every baby has a mother, a father, and a string of relatives. What would happen if babies were born *without* a mother and father to feed and to care for them? From the moment of birth, babies *should* be surrounded by parents who give tender loving care.

When you became a Christian you entered a new family — a spiritual one. In 1 Timothy 3:15 Paul said, “*know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*” I believe the first Christians immediately organized themselves into “households,” cells of 10-15 persons. They didn’t use special buildings for their meetings. Instead, they went from house to house, sharing their food and encouraging one another. They were sensitive to each other’s needs.

Over the centuries, the people of God moved away from being a *family* to being an institutional *organization*.

It took several centuries, but gradually the family life of God’s people was replaced by a lot of meetings held in formal buildings called “churches.”

Actually, the word “church” should never be used to refer to a building. The word “church” comes

from a Greek word which means “*called out people.*” God’s plan was to build a kingdom recognized by *special relationships*.





**In Ephesians 2:19-22, what is called a “building”?
(please underline your choice)**

- **A structure erected on a piece of land.**
- **A people who become Christ’s dwelling place.**
- **The scripture is unclear; could be either one.**

In our generation, Christians are restructuring themselves to be more biblical. Small groups, or “cells,” are forming all over the earth. All life-forms begin with *cells*. This is also true of the church. You will attend “Celebrations” where many cells cluster for praise, worship, and Bible teaching, but your life will be focused on the family unit, your cell group.

Typically, one person will serve the group as the leader and facilitator. Some day, when you have matured, you may also shepherd others as a cell leader. You will soon discover that each member is on a spiritual journey with you. Some will be strong Christians. Others will be weak ones. (*Some will have problems that would make a stone statue weep!*) Observe them as either *models* of the way Christians grow in the faith, or the way Christians allow obstacles to stunt growth.

You, too, will grow along with them. As a little child learns by watching parents and brothers and sisters, so you will begin to develop your own Christian lifestyle by observing how others serve the Lord and struggle with their personal needs.

The most mature believers in the family circle are called “apostles” and “prophets.” In Ephesians 2:20, note they are not the *roof* over God’s people, lording it over them, but rather they are a *foundation* to support God’s people. Of course, the all-important *cornerstone* is Christ Jesus Himself!



Carefully read Ephesians 2:19-22 again. Answer the questions below and them with your mentor:

1. What does the term “fellow citizens with God’s people” mean to you?

2. How does the term “members of God’s household” in verse 19 parallel “whole building” in verse 21?

3. According to verse 22, where does God dwell?

Week 1, Day 2
This Unit: Kingdom Lifestyles
This Week: Your New Family
Today: Growing Up Takes Time

Read Hebrews 5:11-14

Have you just become a Christian? If so, let's compare your *physical* life with your *spiritual* life. While you may be quite mature physically, you are still a spiritual baby. Your Kingdom senses have not yet developed.

Physically, it takes about 20 years to become an adult from infancy. Growing up spiritually also takes time. However, unlike *physical* growth, *spiritual* growth doesn't happen to everyone at the same rate. Furthermore, in the Kingdom you will observe some who have matured in a lopsided fashion — such as studying the Bible but never sharing their faith.

When I was a boy, my daddy took me to a meeting where he was preaching. I shall never forget one person who attended his meetings. Although only as large as a three-year-old, this “child” had a heavy beard on his face! He was actually *32 years old*, but his body and mind had stopped developing when he was only three years old! This can also happen to Christians. They can also fail to properly mature.



In the Hebrews passage for today, the writer was frustrated with his readers. In 5:11-12, what was their problem?

They were S _____ to L _____.

They needed M _____, not S _____ F _____.

You can't tell how mature a Christian is by his or her physical age. Some who have been Christians for years may not have grown as rapidly as others who have belonged to the Lord for months!

FIRST, YOU MUST DIGEST A SPECIAL MILK FORMULA!

Babies develop by drinking milk and progressing to solid food. The writer of Hebrews says it's possible for you to quit growing if you don't progress to solid food! In verses 13 and 14, we are given the exact formula of the food that feeds us, and makes us grow. He says that we must start to drink in the "*teaching about righteousness.*" If we do so, we will train ourselves "*to distinguish good from evil.*"

God created Adam and Eve "*in his own image*" (Genesis 1:27). During that time, they didn't have to understand the differences of good and evil. Adam and Eve were in the Kingdom, and God was protecting them from the very presence of evil. In fact, God specifically said, "*you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die*" (Genesis 2:17).

Then Satan came to them. Note the words he used to destroy them found in Genesis 3:5: "*For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*" That, of course, was a hellish lie! (Satan is the father of lies. You can never trust him to tell the truth!)

Adam and Eve gained not only the *knowledge* of good and evil, they also learned the *consequences* of evil. Paul says, "*their foolish hearts were darkened.*" When we are born into a kingdom of this world, we have a moral law within us which enables us to distinguish between good and evil, but, in our fallen condition, we often willfully choose to suppress that knowledge.

DISTINGUISHING GOOD FROM EVIL

All your life, you have lived suppressing this ability! Have you ever watched a one-year-old child grab a pair of scissors when his mother was not watching? Why did she panic when she saw what was happening? It was because that youngster could not distinguish the *good* use of the scissors from their *evil* use. If they were thrust into an eye socket, permanent tragedy would result!

In these first moments of your Kingdom life, it's necessary for you to learn to *distinguish* good from evil. This is the first time in your life you have had the spiritual ability to do that, but it doesn't happen automatically. You must be nourished by the "milk" that teaches about righteousness. 1 Peter 2:2 says, "*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, . . .*" The "milk" here is a reference to the Bible.

One person commented, "There's nothing wrong in having sex with a person you're not married to. In fact, I don't even *know* anyone who would argue about that point." In the kingdoms of this world, that might be true. It happens all the time. Getting personal "needs" satisfied seems to be a *good* thing to do, but the results of using another person for self-satisfaction is *evil*, for it doesn't show any respect for the other person.

Babies don't drink milk on their own. It takes many weeks before an infant can even hold a bottle. Others must be responsible for the feeding. That's why your involvement in your cell group is critical to your Kingdom life. You must rely on those who are more mature to feed you.