

Dayton Women in the Word
Summer Study Children's Lessons
MARK WEEK 7
5-12 YEAR OLDS

MAIN QUESTION: Who is Jesus?

MAIN TRUTH: Jesus is the King of the Jews, but not the King they expected.

LESSON CONTENT

This summer we're studying the gospel story as told by Mark. Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this story so we can know Jesus better and love Him more.

Last week we learned that Jesus is the Son of Man. (If you forget the hand motions you can ask who remembers!)

- Jesus is both fully God and fully man. We can be amazed at who he is even if we don't understand him completely!
- Jesus is the only one who has authority like God the Father. He is in charge of the world.

***Enlist the help of your assistant and find a way to surprise them before the lesson. It could be as simple as shouting "Boo!" This is to introduce the concept of surprise/astonishment.*

Can you think of a time when you were *astonished*?! "Astonished" means that you were very, very, very surprised, and maybe a little confused. *Turn and talk to a friend about that time.* When I hold up my Bible it will be time to stop and listen.

Let them talk for about 3 minutes. Halfway through, remind them to switch so both people get a turn to share. Hold up your Bible and open it to 1 Samuel. You can also do this as a large group and share answers with everyone.

A long time before Jesus, the Israelites were living in the land God had promised them.

- He gave them directions about how to live there and they didn't listen. He gave them judges to lead them and they didn't want them. In 1 Samuel 8 they told the prophet and judge Samuel that they wanted a king so they could be like the nations around them. Samuel was angry, but God told him that He would give the people what they wanted, even if it was not good for them.
- So God gave them a king, and he ended up not following God's way. By the fourth king, the nation of Israel even split! They became two different kingdoms with two different kings and began to fight against each other. One king called David loved God with all his heart, but even he made terrible mistakes. This was definitely not the special plan God had for Israel. **They needed a perfect king.**

Think of a king you have seen in a book or movie. What was that king like? What was his life like?

- *On the left side of a piece of chart paper or dry erase board list ideas the kids share. Like: powerful, warrior, famous, strong, rich, lots of honor, can get whatever he wants, etc*

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to tell the kingdom of Judah (the one that broke off from the rest of Israel) that God was sending them a king. In Isaiah 9:6-7 it says:

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of **PEACE**
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with **JUSTICE** and with **RIGHTEOUSNESS**
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

God is letting the people of Judah, or Jews, know that His kingdom is different than anything they have seen before. And He's telling them that the true King is on His way.

- *Draw a line down the middle of the chart and add the bold words (in the teaching below) above to the right side.*
- God's people waited a very long time. And then God sent the King to Earth! To live with his people! They were looking for someone strong and powerful (point to the list on the left). But who did God send? Jesus! A **BABY!** (Add "baby" to the right side of the list.)
- When Jesus grew up, he did not live in a palace like a King. In fact, he didn't have a home at all! He traveled a lot and stayed with kind people.
- He had authority like a King and showed that by performing miracles and telling demons to leave people alone. But he also submitted to God the Father's authority and **OBEYED** by going to the cross even when he felt sad or scared. (add "obeyed" to the right list)
- Jesus did not fight battles like a King. Instead, he taught his followers to respond with **LOVE** when people tried to fight with them. (add "love" to right side list)
- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, people were waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" which means "save us!" But he was not there to fight a battle with a sword like you would expect a King to. We expect great kings to win, right? He **DIED** instead. (add "died" to right side list)
- Jesus was not exalted or lifted high like a King is. He did not have honor like a King does. He wore a crown of thorns and was raised up high on a cross instead of a throne.

Jesus is the King of the Jews but he wasn't the kind of King they expected!

- The kingdom of heaven that Jesus was bringing to earth was an upside-down kingdom. It was astonishing to people. They felt surprised and confused.
- Everything Jesus taught and did surprised people.
- Jesus ended up saving us in a very surprising way. And he wants us to be royal members of this kingdom. He wants us to act in an upside-down way. He wants us to astonish people with our love and obedience. He wants us to be victorious in sacrificing what we want to show love for somebody else.

ACTIVITY

Make upside-down crowns. Decorate the crowns with words or pictures of things that were part of Jesus's kingdom. Use the chart from the lesson as a reference for the kinds of things they could include on the crown. You can even think of or list out stories they've heard about Jesus so far in the Mark study and draw those. Remind the kids that they can surprise their family by putting on the crown upside down. When their family is surprised, kids can explain how Jesus was a different kind of King than people were expecting.

Have the kids write or draw on the **Week 7 page of the Biography of Jesus booklet**. It might contain similar things that they drew on their crown!

PRAYER

Invite the children to pray or pray over them:

God, we feel astonished when we think about your kingdom. Thank you for sending Jesus, the perfect King of the Jews, to rescue us in such an unexpected way. Thank you for giving us your Word to help us know you more and know how exactly to follow you. Help us to astonish people with grace and love like yours. Use your Holy Spirit to help us want this more than anything. Amen.

MARK MEMORY VERSE

Practice Mark 10:45 together or read it over them:

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

PARENT RESOURCES

1. Sing the memory verse song together.
2. Practice the main truth with motions together.
3. Read parts of Mark 15. Why were the soldiers mocking Jesus? How did they do it?
4. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What is God looking for in a King?
5. Read Genesis 1 and 2 together. Discuss how God gave Adam and Eve the position of rulers (like a king and queen) over creation. What did they do with that gift?
6. Look at [optical illusions together](#), like the face/vase, old woman/young woman, etc. Check out other surprising art, too, like [CJ Hendry](#), [MC Escher](#), or [Tim Noble and Sue Webster](#) (preview first for mature content). Discuss how you expect one thing and the artist purposefully upends your expectation.
7. Watch The Bible Project videos about [Heaven & Earth](#) and [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#).
8. Read [The Biggest Story](#) together. It's a quick read and provides an overview of the kingdom of Israel's decline.