



# KING OF KINGS

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U4#4 1st-3rd Grade • Oct.15, 2023

## Concept

Jesus is King of Kings.

## Goal

Students will learn that Jesus is the head over everything and everything in heaven and on earth is under His authority. They will learn more about what this truly means!

## Passage

Philippians 2:8-11

Key Verse: "... Because of the joy awaiting him, [Jesus] endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Stations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Classical Kids</i>—pp.128-129, 2 copies/room</li></ul> <p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Great Sword Fight Tournament" sign</li><li>• 2 swords</li><li>• Crown</li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper towel tubes, 1/student</li><li>• Pictures of signums</li><li>• Small paper plates, 2/student</li><li>• Ribbon, 12"/student</li><li>• Construction paper, several sheets/class</li><li>• Aluminum foil sheets, 1 box/room</li><li>• Yarn</li><li>• Markers</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Transparent tape</li><li>• Glue sticks</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“Although Jesus did not use the title himself, he accepted it when others called him Messiah, and the Gospels show a gradual dawning on his disciples that their teacher was none other than the long-awaited King.

“Jesus encouraged such beliefs by using the word that quickened the pulse of his people. ‘The kingdom of heaven is near,’ he proclaimed in his very first message. Each time he spoke it, that word stirred memories to life: bright banners, glittering armies, the gold and ivory of Solomon’s day, the nation of Israel restored. What was about to happen, Jesus said, would far surpass anything from the past: ‘For I tell you than many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’ On another occasion he announced provocatively, ‘Now one greater than Solomon is here.’

“Zealots stood at the edge of Jesus’ audience, armed and well-organized guerrillas spoiling for a fight against Rome, but to their consternation the signal for revolt never came. In time, Jesus’ pattern of behavior disappointed all who sought a leader in the traditional mold...

“To the crowds’ dismay, it became clear that Jesus was talking about a strangely different kind of kingdom. The Jews wanted what people have always wanted from a visible kingdom: a chicken in every pot, full employment, a strong army to deter invaders. Jesus announced a kingdom that meant denying yourself, taking up a cross, renouncing wealth, even loving your enemies. As he elaborated, the crowd’s expectations crumbled.

“By the time Jesus was nailed to wooden crossbeams, everyone had lost hope and fallen away. Scholars report that first-century Jews had no concept of a suffering Messiah. As for the Twelve, no matter how often or how plainly Jesus warned them of his impending death, it never sank in. No one could imagine a Messiah dying.

“The word kingdom meant one thing to Jesus and quite another to the crowd. Jesus was rejected, in large part, because he did not measure up to a national image of what a Messiah was supposed to look like.”[1]

[1] The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey, © 1995 by Philip Yancey, Zondervan Publishing House, pp. 241, 242.

## Set Up

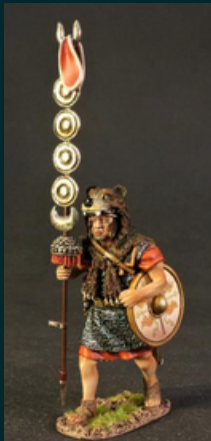
For sword fight DRAMA, determine two students to be the sword fighters, the teacher who will act as the narrator of the sword fight and, the teacher who will jump into the sword fight and be killed. Go over the skit with the children.

Hang the “Great Sword Fight Tournament” sign on the wall where it will be seen immediately upon entry.

Write on the white board: “The kingdom has been left without a ruler. The outcome of the sword fight will determine the rightful King.”

Lay out swords for teachers to use and display the crown that the new king will wear.

## Incorporation Lg. Group



## Introduction Lg. Group

### Activity Stations

#### • Craft – Signum [1]

- **Instructions:** In days of Jesus the Roman armies had a standard-bearer who carried their legion's standard or “signum.” The signum was used in the same way a banner or flag is used today to represent the army. Most standards of that day had a wreath or gold or silver eagle on top. Below the eagle or wreath were various disks, plates, animals or images of emperors. Use the provided pictures to give you an idea about the design. Design a signum to represent Jesus.

[1] Laurie Carlson, Classical Kids, © 1998 by Laurie Carlson, Chicago Review Press, Inc., pp. 128-129.

We have decorated our room as a pretend country or kingdom. This kingdom has a big problem. They have no king. So we need to choose a king. Let's start off with a sword fight to see who wins the right to be king.

### Drama

#### Sword Fight

**Instructions:** Stage a sword fight. One student should drop his/her sword during the fight. Then have a teacher jump in front of the disarmed and helpless sword fighter. Just as this happens, the sword fighter who still has his weapon should stab the teacher who jumped in. The teacher who was stabbed should play dead.

### Debrief

Thinking that a king is someone who is powerful and important in the world, it would seem that the student who kept the sword in hand and stabbed the teacher should be the king. He is the most powerful. But in God's kingdom the king is recognized for different reasons.

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

## Transition

## Lesson Lg. Group

The Puppet Team is going to present a puppet show about kings.

### Drama

“King of the Hill” puppet show presented by the Puppet Team

Let's go back to our classrooms and learn some more about kings and kingdoms. We'll read about the qualifications for the king in God's kingdom.

### Good News

Do you remember what we learned last week? God's leaders serve unselfishly like Jesus. Our key verse was “Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve others” (Matthew 20:28). Thinking about that, what kind of person do you think God would choose as king of His kingdom? (Allow students to discuss.) God would give the crown to the greatest servant in the world, wouldn't He? Who is the greatest servant of all? (Jesus.) Jesus died on the cross for our sins. After He died God raised Him back to life and He went back to heaven with God. God made Jesus King of all the earth and heaven because He was the greatest servant. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin when He died on the cross.

### Lesson

The New Testament is full of passages that talk about Jesus' rule. The Bible says that Jesus is above all rule and authority, His name is above every name that is named, for all eternity, He is the head over everything and everything in heaven and on earth is under His authority. The book of Ephesians tells us that Jesus was taken up to heaven and seated next to the Father in heaven. In Jesus' day if you sat next to the king it showed that you were important in the kingdom. So we know that because Jesus sits next to God, that God has made Him great in His Kingdom. Turn to Philippians 2 verses 6-11 in your bibles. “Though Jesus was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble (selfless) position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (NLT). Jesus was made king in heaven because He humbled Himself, even to the point of death. This is pretty awesome.

## Lesson Continued

Of course, this isn't how it usually works on earth, is it? On earth, the kings are men who come from wealthy, powerful families. They live very comfortable lives and are protected as much as possible from any suffering. These men are in charge and have great power to order others around; and they often "lord it over others." But God's view is different.

God says Jesus, who was willing to live a humble life and suffer and die for everyone, should be king. You see, God's view is just the opposite of man's view. Let's turn to our key verse, Hebrews 12:2. God says that those who will be honored are those who are first humble servants. "... Because of the joy awaiting him, [Jesus] endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne" (Hebrews 12:2).

The Jewish people expected the Messiah to be a powerful king who freed them from the Roman rulers. Those who saw Jesus die on the cross thought their king had died and all was lost. But it was because He had died to pay for our sins that He became the king of all kings. "... Because of the joy awaiting him, [Jesus] endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne" (Hebrews 12:2).

## Transition

Let's get into small groups to finish up and pray.

## Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Jesus is King because He used His power to love and serve people rather than to boss and control. Therefore, we can trust that what He wants for us is rooted in perfect love. Doesn't it make sense that if we give Him the right to rule our lives, we can trust that His rule will always be for our good rather than to rule us selfishly like kings of this world?

- Do you believe Jesus loves you and knows what's best for you?
- Do you know Jesus? What is the first step to know Him? How do you get to know Him better?
- Does knowing how much Jesus loves you make you want to follow Jesus and be more like Him?
- Why do you think we are sometimes selfish instead of unselfish, humble servants like Jesus?
- Do you want to change? How do you think you can change?

**Mission Prayer:** Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray and thank God that He sent Jesus to earth so we can be His friends. Let's ask Him to help us remember that He always does what is best for us and ask Him to help us get to know Him better and trust Him more.

## **Learning Activity#3 Lg. Group**

### **Game – Micatio [1]**

**Instructions:** Micatio was a game played by children during the time of Christ. It is a game for two players that can be played anywhere, anytime. The two players each raise the fingers of their right hands at the same time, keeping the rest of their fingers folded down. They change the number of fingers they raise each time they do this. As they raise fingers at the same time, they each call out the number they guess to be the total number of fingers raised by both. They keep playing until one player guesses correctly and wins.

[1] Laurie Carlson, Classical Kids, © 1998 by Laurie Carlson, Chicago Review Press, Inc., p.169.

## King of the Hill

**Concept:** This skit describes worldly kings. This is in contrast to God as king.

**Cast:** Penny, Jason and Jenny

**Set:** The entire puppet stage is needed for this skit. The upper back portion is the “hill” for this game of King of the Hill.

**(The three puppets are struggling, playing King of the Hill on the upper level. Penny stays on top, other two puppets struggle with her one at a time. Various “play” words are spoken. Kids keep playing three times, each time Penny ends up as king of the hill. After the third time, Jason and Jenny appear on the lower level.)**

**Penny:** *(singing)* I am King of the Hill! Woohoo! *(make a victory sound)* How does it feel to be smaller and below me?!

**Jenny:** *(to Jason)* Man, she is good at this game, but since she has won she is being kind of mean.

**Jason:** It’s not even fun playing with her because she is a sore winner.

**Penny:** *(talking to the other two)* Hey! What are you two talking about? Since I am your king, you are now my people and I demand you tell me what you are talking about!

**Jenny:** *(looking at Jason and saying sarcastically)* Nothing, your majesty!

**Penny:** *(acting very puffed up)* As my people, you better not be saying anything against me!

**Jason:** *(to Jenny)* What’s going on with Penny? She’s become like King Nebuchadnezzar, and if we don’t listen she might throw us in the fiery furnace!

**Jenny:** *(to Penny)* Penny, ever since you have become King of the Hill, you have started to be mean to us, calling us your people and demanding we listen to you.

**Penny:** Mean? I am just acting like a real king, demanding what I want, making you do what I say, you know- like Pharaoh when he made the people of Israel be his servants!

**Jason:** I can't really think of one nice king. I guess you're right... *(looking sad)* Kings in history haven't always been that nice or caring.

**Penny:** Exactly, so since I am King of the Hill, I should act like a normal king- rich and powerful!

**Jenny:** Yeah and in history, many kings started out well and ended up using their power for pretty bad things. King David was a man after God's own heart, and yet he used his power to take a wife that wasn't his and he even killed one of his best friends.

**Jason:** It's sad to see that no amount of "good" in a person is enough to help them not become a king that overpowers people.

**Jenny:** I think a lot of the kings in history let the power go to their head, even if they were placed there by God himself. They still had to be always right, felt like they could take and do anything, and were very proud.

**Penny:** I don't know if I want to be king anymore... I don't want to be mean to you guys. You are my friends!

**Jason:** *(to Jenny)* You know Jenny, I think I can forgive her for being mean, what do you think?

**Jenny:** Yeah, I can too! Let's play again, and not let the kingship go to our heads!

*(before playing again)*

**Penny:** I wonder if there is a king in history that hasn't had the power go to their head?

**Jason:** Yeah, I wonder if there is anyone who is just and loving, who can make decisions based on loving the people who are under them!

**Penny:** Okay guys let's play!

**Jenny:** I'm winning this time!

*Exit*