

JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

Romans 8:19; Philippians 1:23; 3:8-14; Psalm 119:20; 42:1-2; 63:1; Isaiah 26:9; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Revelation 19:16; 22:20

BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

"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."

BIG IDEAS

- We long because we are in darkness.
- We long for the King who is our deliverer.
- We long for the King who is both wisdom and might.
- We long for the King who is both eternal and peace.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-7

God promised a coming King to rescue His people. In Isaiah, we see a vision of this coming King who will rescue His people and make things right. Jesus followers look forward to the return of this King who will bring with Him new life forever.

ADVENT

Advent is a special celebration and contemplation of the coming of Jesus Christ that Christians participate in during the Christmas season. Advent literally means "arrival" or "coming". During Advent season God's people remember and rejoice in Jesus' first coming to save his people from their sins, while at the same time long with anticipation and expectation for his return. Advent centers on Jesus, the saving Son. He alone is the one true King!



Every child should know that:

- Jesus is the one and only King.
- Jesus came and is coming again.
- We exist for Jesus.



Every child should feel:

- The longing within their soul for the King.
- A dissatisfaction within their soul for things of the world.
- Awe and wonder that the King has come and is coming again.



Every child should strive to:

- Spend time each week with their family talking about the King.
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week.
- Tell someone else about the King who came and is coming again.



Every child should want to:

- Trust the King in the everyday struggles of life.
- See and seek Jesus more than anything else this Christmas season.
- Tell others who are lost about the good news of the King.

FAMILY DEVOTION: The Coming King

Jesus was the Promised Messiah and He brought with Him salvation and peace. He is also the returning King who will usher in an eternity of peace and will rule in all wisdom and might now and forever.

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BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 9:6

"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."

God promised to send the King.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."

- In the beginning, God promised to send the One who would rescue the world from its sin and brokenness.¹ God's redemption plan was fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Through Isaiah's vision and prophecy of the coming Redeemer, we get a glimpse of how God is going to fulfill His promise to mankind.
- The Redeemer would come as a child, God's only Son. This child would be a gift given to the world and he would be God Himself coming to the earth to rescue His people. God had promised to send the Messiah to His people, and He keeps His promises.

The King holds all power and glory.

"...and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

- Jesus came as the Son of God and took on flesh to live the perfect life that no human could ever live. Jesus came as a baby, conquered sin and death, and rose again to new life. This Redeemer has all the power and glory because He is God Himself.
- Jesus followers long for this King who is the true King and the only King who has all power and is mighty over all things. Because He is called Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, we can know that Jesus is the one true King who rules over all.

The King is in control of everything.

"And the government shall be upon His shoulder..."

- When Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah, he foretold of His sovereignty and His right to reign in hearts and on earth. Jesus is the true King. He has the right to rule over the earth because He is the beginning of all things.
- He is the Redeemer of mankind and should be regarded as the supreme power over life on earth. He has control of all things and He rules over all things with wisdom and discernment. His people look forward to the day when He rules on earth as He does in Heaven.

BIBLE STORY: ISAIAH 9:1-7

The King Is Coming

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of cardstock and ask them to draw a crown on it. Next, help them cut their crowns out and give them crayons to decorate their crowns. As they decorate them talk with them about how Jesus is the true King and His people long for His coming. Ask the children to think about some things that they long for and then remind them that Jesus followers long for the true King.

1. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 God promised to send a "son" whose kingdom would be established forever.

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BIG IDEA: WE LONG BECAUSE WE ARE IN DARKNESS.²

Sin corrupts the entire world.

- God made the world good, but sin made the world groan. When sin entered the world in Genesis 3, everything changed.
- The relationship between us and God was broken: God's people no longer walked with Him.
- The relationship between us and creation was broken: the ground was cursed and would produce thorns and thistles, making work difficult.
- The relationship between humans was broken: sin damaged the closest human relationship, the relationship between husband and wife.
- Sin introduced shame into the lives of humanity and death into the world.
- Because of sin, we dwell in darkness. Ephesians 5:9 tells us that "the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true." All that is good, right, and true is found in God, and we have rejected Him and chosen to walk and live in darkness instead of following His ways.



Have kids try to draw a picture with their eyes closed. When they open their eyes, talk about how the reason they couldn't draw well was because they couldn't see. Spiritually, we cannot see truth because we are in darkness. We long for the King who brings light.

We experience longing because we were created for God.³

- We were created for God, but our relationship with Him was broken because of sin. We long for the restoration of our relationship with our Creator.
- In the time of Isaiah the prophet, the Israelites are walking in rebellion against the Lord. In Isaiah 2:5, Isaiah calls them to walk in the light of the Lord. In Isaiah 8, the prophet warns that those who have rejected God will experience distress, darkness, and anguish. "They will be thrust into thick darkness."
- Yet, there is hope. God, in His mercy, does not leave us in spiritual darkness. Isaiah 9:2 prophesies "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." This refers to the promised Messiah, the One who takes away the sin of the world, the One who darkness cannot overcome.
- Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness; He is the way for our relationship with our Creator to be restored.

We long because the world cannot satisfy.

- God created many good things and He gives His people many good gifts, but none of these can ultimately satisfy us. They cannot fix what sin has broken. This leaves us longing, or desperately wanting and hoping, for something that we do not currently have.
- We long for His coming and for Him to come again when He will make all the bad things in the world right again.

Why do we experience longing? (We dwell in darkness because of sin and long for restoration.)

2. John 3:19: Jesus said that He came into the world as light, but that the people chose the darkness rather than the light because their works are evil.

3. Isaiah 43:7: We are created for God's glory.

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS OUR DELIVERER.⁴

We need a deliverer.

- We are all sinful because we all break God's law and we rebel against Him.
- Because we are all sinful, we all need to be rescued from our sin.
- He told the people that they could not save themselves, but needed someone to save them.
- Isaiah was a prophet, or special messenger of God. He told God's
- people that God was going to send a Deliverer to them.



Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Ask each group to come up with a list of things the world needs to deliver from, such as crime, bad people, natural disasters. Next, allow them to share their lists and then remind them that Jesus is the King who delivers the world from its darkness.

God promised a King.⁵

- From the beginning, God promised to save His people. He promised to show them grace and kindness by sending someone who could rescue them.
- In Isaiah 9:1-9, God promises to send His Son to save them. God made a great sacrifice in order to save His people from their sin and the darkness of this world.
- God sent His Son to save us and to bring us truth and to help us live for God.

We long for deliverance.

- Jesus is the Son of God who came to pay our sin debt.
- We long for His coming and for Him to come again when He will make all the bad things in the world right again.
- Our hearts long for rescue because we were created for God and our sin separates us from Him.
- Our human hearts long for our Rescuer.

How does Jesus' birth bring us hope of deliverance? (His birth means that we can be saved from our sin.)

4. Romans 8:19-21: All of creation groans to be set free from the bondage of sin. Just like creation, we long for the coming of the King who is our deliverer.
5. 2 Samuel 7:12-13: God promised a Son who whose kingdom would be established forever.

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH WISDOM AND MIGHT.⁶

The world is full of foolishness.

- Because we are all sinful, or do things that are opposite of God's plan, we are all foolish.
- We follow our own purposes and plans. This leads us down a path of destruction. The world is full of foolish things and people.
- Our sin makes us unable to see God's way and His path. We are foolish and follow a path we think is the right path.



Ask the children to name some of the foolish things in the world, such as rebellion against authority, rejecting God's Word and truth, etc. Remind the children that Jesus is the true King who rules in all wisdom and might. Remind them that Jesus is more powerful than anything in the world and we long for the day that He rules on earth as He does in heaven.

King Jesus rules in wisdom.

- Isaiah describes Jesus as being very wise.
- Jesus has all wisdom and understanding because He is the beginning of all things.
- Wisdom comes from Him because He is fully God.
- All of Jesus' choices and actions are done in great wisdom. He always makes the right choice because He is wise and knows what to do always.

King Jesus rules in might.

- Not only is Jesus described as a wonderful counselor, but Isaiah's prophecy also describes Him as ruling in all power and might.
- Jesus is the only true King and He rules us in great power and might.
- Jesus' people long for Him to rule always on earth.

How does Jesus' wisdom and might bring His people hope in their future? (Because Jesus is all-powerful and mighty, we can trust in our future where He reigns eternally.)

6. 1 Corinthians 1:30: All wisdom comes from Jesus because all things come from Him. His people long for Him because He is wisdom and might.

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE JESUS FOLLOWERS LONG FOR THE KING

BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH ETERNAL AND PEACE.⁷

King Jesus is eternal.

- Jesus has no beginning or end because He is fully God.
- He is not a created being. He has always been and He will always be.
- Because Jesus is eternal this means His people can trust in Him always. He will always be present in our lives.

He sits outside of time.

- Jesus is not controlled by time. He created time and set it in motion.
- We have a set number of hours in a day, days in a week, and weeks in a year and we are limited by these things, but Jesus does not.
- Because He is outside of time we can trust Him infinitely. We can look forward to His coming because He controls all things, including time.



Bring in an alarm clock, or wall clock for the children to look at. Next, ask the children to name some ways that we are bound by time, such as having to go to bed at a certain time, not being able to speed time up, etc. Remind them that King Jesus is not bound by time because He is outside of time. We long for King Jesus who operates outside of time and actually controls it.

King Jesus gives eternal peace.

- When Jesus came the first time, He brought peace to those who have saving faith in Him by His life and death. No longer do people have to live at war with God because of the work of Christ.
- This peace is eternal, or forever.
- Jesus followers can look forward to Jesus' return because it means no more bad things or fighting. It means everyone will get along and love one another like they should.

Why can Jesus followers long for King Jesus' return? (We can long for His return because it means eternal peace.)

7. Psalm 85:8: God gives peace to His people and His people can look forward to His return because of the peace He brings.

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HOOKS



KNOW

What Is A King?

Divide the children into small groups and give each group a piece of paper. Ask the groups to make a list of what they think a king is and what his responsibilities are or should be. Next, read Isaiah 9:1-7 to the children and have them identify the type of king Jesus is. Remind them that He is all-powerful, full of wisdom, and the bringer of peace and deliverance to His people. Remind them that Jesus followers long for this King.



DO

True Wisdom

Write the word "wisdom" on the board and ask the children to define it. Write down some of the things they say and then ask them to think of examples of the world's wisdom. Next, remind them that Jesus is all-wise and all-knowing. He rules in all wisdom because wisdom is from Him. Help them think of some of the ways that Jesus ruled in wisdom during His earthly ministry.



FEEL



WANT

To Know Him

Lead the children in a time of prayer. As you pray for them and with them, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you each to a better understanding and knowledge of King Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you each a greater longing for Him.