

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

ADVENT: REMEMBER TO ANTICIPATE

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

Psalm 9:10; 20:7; Isaiah 12:2; Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 26:4; Jeremiah 17:7; 1 Peter 1:1-9; Revelation 19:16

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 1:38

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

BIG IDEAS

- We trust the King's perfect plan.
- We trust the King with our doubts and fears.
- We trust the King by obeying His Word.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1

The births of John the Baptist and Jesus mark the fulfillment of promises that God's people had been waiting for for centuries. The promises that God made to Elizabeth and to Mary about the children they would have seemed impossible, but they trusted God to keep His Word.

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 FAITHFUL KING JESUS

Jesus came as the promised Messiah revealing God's faithfulness to keep His Word. Jesus overcame man's sin and offers salvation to all those who believe. His birth meant that the faithful King had come. Because of this, His people can trust in His return.



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BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 1:38

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God's people listened to Him.

"And Mary said, 'Behold...'"

- Luke 1 tells the narrative of an angel of the Lord coming to Zechariah to foretell the birth of John the Baptist, and an angel of the Lord coming to Mary and Joseph to foretell the birth of Christ.
- In both examples, we see them respond with the uncertainty of how something that seemed so impossible could happen. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were both very old, and Mary was a virgin. Zechariah at first did not believe the words of the angel, and so he was unable to speak until the baby was born. The Lord gave him back his speech when he obeyed the word of the Lord to name him John.

Mary saw her identity as a servant of the Lord.

"I am the servant of the Lord"

- Even though Mary was afraid, and even though she did not fully understand what was happening or how it would happen, she knew that her identity was found in the Lord.
- Mary's example teaches us where our identity is found. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, including our very lives. He gives us every breath that we take and keeps our heart beating. He is sovereign and in control, and we exist for Him.

Mary trusted the Lord with her life.

"let it be to me according to your word."

- Mary's response reveals that she trusts in the Lord. She submitted her life to the will of God. When we obey God's commands, we show the world around us that we believe Him. Just as Mary and Joseph took God at His Word and did all that God commanded him, we can do the same.
- We can always trust God and His plan even when it doesn't make sense to us or we are unsure of how it will all work out.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1

The Birth of John the Baptist and the Promise of Jesus

Opening Illustration:

Use a bandana as a blindfold. Allow the children to take turns wearing the blindfold while being led around the room. Talk with them about how they have to trust the leader while they are blindfolded. We have to trust God and we can because He is trustworthy.

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BIG IDEA: WE TRUST THE KING'S PERFECT PLAN.¹

King Jesus is always perfect.

- Jesus is our one true King and He is always perfect. To be perfect means to not have any sin, or bad things inside. Jesus doesn't have any sin.
- He lived on this earth and did so perfectly. He never sinned, never rebelled, never made a mistake. He obeyed God the Father perfectly.
- Jesus took on our sin, or bad things and took our place on the cross. God accepted Him as our sacrifice and now we can have a relationship with God because of Jesus' perfection. Because He is perfect, we can always trust in Him because all that He does is perfect.



Write the word "Trust" on the board. Divide the children into small groups and ask the groups to define the word and then to name some of the things they trust others with, such as trusting their parents to take care of them. Next, help the class think of the things that we can trust God with, such as providing life to us, protecting us, coming back one day, etc. Remind them that King Jesus is trustworthy and faithful.

He acts righteously.

- To be righteous is to be without sin or blemish. It also means to do all the things God wants us to do and asks us to do. Jesus always acts righteously. He is our true King who is good and perfect.
- He obeys God's Word perfectly and joyfully. We can trust Him because He is good and always does the right thing.
- Even when things seem bad, we can trust that He is doing what is best for us.

God's people trust in His perfect plan.

- Learning to trust God's plan is part of growing in our relationship with Him. Often our human nature will lie to us and make us believe that God cannot be trusted. God gives us His Word, the Bible to remind us of He can be trusted.
- We can look at the ways God works in our lives to remember that He can be trusted.
- His people trust in Him and not the world or their feelings.

Why can God's people trust in His plan? (He proves Himself to be faithful and trustworthy and He is perfect so His plan is perfect.)

1. Proverbs 3:5: God's people can trust His plan no matter what because He is faithful.

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BIG IDEA: WE TRUST THE KING WITH OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS.²

Jesus takes away our doubts.

- In the first chapter of Luke, God reveals His trustworthiness to us by keeping His promise to send a Savior to the world.
- God always does what He says He's going to do. God sent Jesus to be our Savior and He was and is.
- When we trust in Jesus, our doubts and fears go away. As we focus on who Jesus is and all that He does, our doubts will fade away and in place of them will be constant reminders of God's faithfulness to us no matter what.



Play a game of musical ball. Place the children in a circle and pass a ball while music plays. When the music stops, ask the child holding the ball to name a doubt or fear they may have about God or life. Once they all have a chance to name something, talk about how God's Word shows us He is faithful and trustworthy no matter what.

Jesus calms our fears.

- In Luke 1, Mary was betrothed, or engaged, to Joseph. When God spoke to Mary through a dream, she did not understand how she could be having a baby. She and Joseph weren't even married yet.
- Mary was troubled when the angel spoke to her. She likely felt fear and doubt, but she trusted in the Lord. She knew that her identity was as a servant of the King, and she trusted whatever He would have happen to her.
- Just like Mary and Joseph found the bravery to do what God had commanded them to do even though it meant a difficult situation, we can trust God when we doubt and fear.

We can trust God no matter what our situation.

- Mary and Joseph's situation was not easy by the world's standards, but he trusted God.
- We can have faith in God and live it out as we trust Him not matter the circumstances of our situations. We can continue to trust God even when our situations do not get better according to the world's standards. We can have faith in God to do what is best for us and what brings Him the most glory.

How do we know that we can trust God in our doubts and fears? (God is faithful and true. He always takes cares of His people and His Word reveals this to us.)

2. Psalm 27:14: Those who wait for the Lord are not forsaken. We can wait expectantly for Him because He is trustworthy.

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BIG IDEA: WE TRUST THE KING BY OBEYING HIS WORD.³

God's Word is perfect because He is perfect.

- We know that God is perfect in every way. Because He is perfect, His Word, or the Bible is perfect.
- This means that everything God tells us in His Word is right and true. We can trust His Word because it is without mistake.
- God's Word does not fail us. It shows us who God is and how He interacts with the world and by showing us this, it shows us who we are.
- God is perfect, and in His Word, we see example after example of His righteousness. He loves us when we are sinners. When we reject and rebel against Him, He makes the greatest sacrifice on our behalf. Everything about Him is good.



Divide the children into small groups and have them roleplay Joseph's dream. As they are reenacting the dream, remind them that God is faithful and we show we trust Him by obeying His Word.

King Jesus is God's Word in the flesh.

- Jesus left heaven to come to earth. He took on human flesh and became like us to save us.
- Because Jesus is the Word of God, we can trust every part of God's Word. The Bible is reliable and trustworthy because it is from God, written down by human authors for God's glory and our good.

We trust King Jesus by obeying His Word no matter what our circumstances.

- Because the Word of God is the actual Word of God, our obedience to it is not optional. Often, we do not obey out of our pride and arrogance.
- Other times, we do not obey it because we do not trust God.
- In Matthew 1, we see another example of Joseph trusting God and His Word. Joseph had determined a way to solve his issue with Mary, but when God commanded him to do otherwise, Joseph did what God said. Joseph's plan for himself would have been the easier way, but he believed God's way to be better.
- We can trust God's Word and obey it fully and completely.

Why should we obey God's Word? (God's Word is from Him and it is perfect in every way just like He is.)

3. John 14:15: When we obey God's commands, we show that we love Him and trust Him.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST
THE KING

HOOKS

**The Only King**

Write the following verses on the board and have the children look them up and read them out loud: Genesis 1:1-2, Isaiah 9:6, John 12:15, and Revelation 17:14. Talk with the children about how these verses show us that Jesus is the only true King. Remind them that Jesus is God and God is the Creator of all things. He is Ruler overall and the only King of the world.

**Trust Collage**

Give the children a blank piece of paper, magazines, scissors, and art supplies. Ask them to make a collage that shows some of the things they trust others with and some of the things they trust God with. Help them think of things like, food, clothing, fun, air, salvation, etc. Remind them that God is a trustworthy King.

**Do You Believe Me?**

Gather the children in a circle and play a game where the children take turns telling either a lie or a truth. The other children have to guess if they believe the child or not. Do this until every child has a chance to tell a lie or truth and then remind them that God is always trustworthy. He does not lie and He can always be trusted.

**The Trustworthy King Has Come**

Work together as a group to compare the different responses of the people in Luke 1 and Matthew 1. How do Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph respond differently to the word of the Lord through the angel? Talk about how at the heart of each of their responses is trust.