

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

ADVENT: THE KING IS COMING!

BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

Psalm 9:10; 20:7; Isaiah 12:2; Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 26:4 (Hebrews 13:8); Jeremiah 17:7; Revelation 19:16

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

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: MATTHEW 1:1-25

The birth of Jesus was long-awaited by God's people and meant that salvation had come to mankind. God's people longed for the coming of the Messiah and today, His people long for the King's return when all things will be made new and right.

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!

BIG AIMS



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: A TRUSTWORTHY KING

Jesus came as the promised Messiah revealing God's trustworthiness. 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 long for His return.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING



BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

Joseph listened to God.

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...”

- Joseph was presented with a unique opportunity. He was betrothed to Mary, yet she became mysteriously pregnant. We learn about the character of Joseph by the way he initially responds to the knowledge that she is pregnant. He decides to handle the situation quietly as opposed to doing so in a way that would bring a lot of attention to it.
- When Joseph heard from the angel of the Lord in his dream, he did exactly what he was told to do. He handled the situation according to God’s plan, revealing that he trusted God and listened to Him. We, too, can listen to God and trust Him in all situations and circumstances.

Joseph obeyed God’s command revealing a heart of trust.

“he took his wife...”

- Joseph didn’t just say he trusted God. He proved that he did by obeying God’s commands. Joseph proved himself to be a man of honor and a man who sought to please God by doing exactly as God commanded him through His angel.
- Joseph’s example teaches us that we can obey God’s commands and when we do, we reveal our hearts. If we truly trust God, we will obey Him no matter what it means to us and our life here on earth. It wasn’t an easy thing for Joseph to take Mary as his wife, but he proved he believed God over his circumstances by remaining faithful to her.

We can trust God and His plan.

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife...”

- When we obey God’s commands, we show the world around us that we believe Him. Just as 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. Joseph didn’t know the whole story concerning Mary and baby Jesus, but he trusted that God would do what He said He was going to do, and he believed Him enough to trust Him in all things.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 1:1-25

The Birth Of Jesus

Opening Illustration:

Use a bandana as a blindfold. Allow the preschoolers 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.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST THE KING

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.



Have the children take turns wearing a blindfold and sitting in a chair. Next, have the other children speak to the blindfolded child without identifying who they are. Ask the blindfolded child to identify each child speaking. Once the children have a chance to wear the blindfold and sit in the chair, talk with them about how we can trust God even when we don't understand because His Word tells us we can. Remind them of how Joseph trusted God.

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.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST
THE KING**BIG IDEA: WE TRUST THE KING WITH OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS.²****Jesus takes away our doubts.**

- In the first chapter of Matthew, 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.



Ask the children to name some of the things that make them afraid in the world, such as a scary storm, the darkness, a bad dream, etc. Ask them to whom they go when they feel afraid. Talk with them about how Joseph probably felt afraid, but he trusted God and we can, too.

Jesus calms our fears.

- In Matthew 1, Joseph is betrothed, or engaged to Mary. When he discovers that Mary is pregnant, he has a decision to make. He chose to quietly end their betrothal instead of publicly doing it. Joseph showed that he was a good man who sought to do what was right.
- When God spoke to Joseph through a dream, Joseph most likely didn't understand all that was going to happen. He probably felt fear or doubt about his situation.
- When Joseph awakened from his dream, he did what God had commanded him to do. Trusting Jesus calms our fears. Just like Joseph found the bravery to do what God had commanded him to do even though it meant a difficult situation for him, we can trust God when we doubt and fear.

We can trust God no matter what our situation.

- 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 no 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 care 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.

JESUS FOLLOWERS TRUST
THE KING**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.



Gather the children in a circle and have them pass a Bible around their circle. Tell the children that the Bible is God's Word. It is the way He speaks to us and tells us about Himself and by learning about Him, we learn about ourselves. Remind them that we can trust His Word because He is trustworthy.

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.
- Joseph is an example of 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



KNOW

The True King

Gather the children in a circle and begin passing a small ball around the circle as you play music. When the music stops, ask the child holding the ball to name one thing that makes Jesus the true King. Help them think of things by making a list on the board before you begin the game. Include things like, He is God, He is faithful, He is all-powerful, He is the Creator, etc. Remind them that Jesus is the only true King.



DO

The Trustworthy King Has Come

Have the children take turns reenacting Joseph's dream from Matthew 1:1-25. Help them identify the main parts of the dream and then let them take turns being Joseph and the angel of the Lord. Talk through some of the feelings Joseph might have had and remind them that Joseph revealed he trusted Jesus by obeying His Word.



FEEL



WANT

Faithful King Jesus

Choose a few songs to sing with the children that talk about Jesus as our King or His faithfulness. Ask the children to name some of the ways they are thankful that Jesus is faithful, such as He never changes, He always keeps His promises, He never leaves us, etc. Remind them that Jesus is the faithful, trustworthy King!