

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: LONGING FOR THE KING

Because Jesus is the true King, His people long for Him. Just as God's people longed for the coming of Jesus as their Messiah, we long for His return as our forever King.

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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:

Bring in a crown you’ve bought or made from construction paper and some gold star stickers. Allow the preschoolers an opportunity to place a sticker on the crown and to take turns wearing the crown. As they do this, talk with them about how King Jesus is the true King and His people long for Him to come.

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.

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BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS OUR DELIVERER.³

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.



Play a game of fishes and shark with the preschoolers. Allow the preschoolers to take turns being the shark. After they take turns being the shark, remind them that we are all like the fish and need to be rescued from our sin, the shark. Jesus came to rescue us and offer us hope and peace.

God promised a King.⁴

- 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 9:1-7, 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.)

3. 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.

4. 2 Samuel 7:12-13: God promised a Son who whose kingdom would be established forever.

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BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH WISDOM AND MIGHT.⁵

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 make a list of some of the people in the world who are strong and mighty. Write their answers on the board. Next, ask the children to name some of the wisest people they know, like their moms or dads. Write these on the board. Talk through what makes these people wise and mighty and what makes them wise. Remind them that Jesus is the wisest and mightiest.

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.)

5. 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.

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BIG IDEA: WE LONG FOR THE KING WHO IS BOTH ETERNAL AND PEACE.⁶

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.



Bring in several watches and a clock. Allow the preschoolers to move the hands on the clock to change the time. Remind the preschoolers that Jesus is outside of time. He controls time unlike us.

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 is 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.

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, death, and resurrection. 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.)

6. 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



Who Is King?

Write the word “king” on the board. Next, ask the children to name some things they’d do if they were in charge for a day. Help them think of things they’d do, like extra snack or no nap time. Remind them that Jesus is the perfect King who rules all things and will one day come again to rule on earth as He does in heaven.



The Wisest King

Play a game of pin the star on the crown with the preschoolers. Place a large crown on the wall and give the preschoolers star stickers to place on the crown. Use a blindfold and have the children take turns trying to stick their star on the crown. As they play remind them that Jesus is the wisest king of all because He is all-knowing and all-powerful.



Is He Coming?

Gather the children in a circle. Ask them to close their eyes and then ask them to think of someone they’d really like to see or some favorite toy or stuffed animal they’d really like to have. Next, tell them that Jesus’ people long to see Him, too. They want to see Him and have Him rule on the earth like He does in Heaven.