

Year 2

God is Lord and King

3 Weeks Christmas



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God has a sovereign plan for the whole world, and the coming of Jesus as a baby was a part of this plan
- As a king rules and reigns, God is in charge of His creation
- It was God's plan, after sin entered the world, to send Jesus to us at the right time in history

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Countries and continents; Where is Israel on the world map?

Link between "God is Lord and King" and classroom topic:

Discuss with children that God is in control of the whole universe. That is, our world, the sun and the stars. He tells the sun the time to set. He makes the tides because the moon is under His control. (Ps 104:19) Because God is looking after our world, He looks after the people that He made. He sent His son Jesus into the world so that every person in the whole world could have the opportunity of knowing the true God.

Values:

Faith; Truth; Joy; Giving

God is Lord and King

Week 1

Jesus is King.

He did not come to be a ruler of the land, but to live and rule in people's hearts and lives.

Bible references

Matthew 2 Jesus is born as King.

Isaiah 9:6-7 He will govern and reign.

Psalms 66 He rules the earth.

Discussion

Ask the children if they know of any country that has a king or queen. (You might suggest the king of Tonga or the queen of England.)

What makes kings and queens so special? What is their special job? What do we mean when we say that kings and queens *rule* over a country?

Long ago, in the days of the Old Testament, a king was promised to the people of Israel. This king would be different from any other king. He would not have a royal throne or wear a royal crown. Yet He would be a King. He would be able to show people the way to God. He would be able to rule in the lives of people who wanted to have Him as their own personal King. This king is Jesus, who God sent to be born as a baby about 2000 years ago.

Bible Lesson: The birth of Jesus

Just after God had made his beautiful perfect world, the two people that God had made decided to disobey God. (Ask the children if they know the names of the people and how they disobeyed God.)

Once this happened, God's world was not perfect any more, but worse than that, God could not walk and talk with the people he had made because God was perfect but his people were not because of sin. Only those who were perfect could walk and talk with God. God was very sad, so he made a plan. One day he would send his Son Jesus to the earth to live among people. He would be born as a baby and when he grew up would die on the cross for people's sin. Those who wanted to ask Jesus to forgive them for their sin and follow him could walk and talk with God.

God had the perfect time for sending his Son Jesus into the world. One day God sent an angel to a young lady called Mary. Mary would become the mother of baby Jesus.

"Do not be afraid," said the angel. God loves you. He is going to give you a very special baby. You will name him Jesus. He will be God's Son."

"Mary was surprised but she believed the angel.

“I will do whatever God wants me to do,” she said.

Mary was going to marry a man called Joseph. They had to go to the town of Bethlehem because the government had asked all people of that area to go to Bethlehem to be counted. It was almost time for baby Jesus to be born. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem. They did not have cars in those days. They had to walk or go by donkey. When they arrived in Bethlehem all the rooms were full. There was no where to stay. But a kind man who owned an inn, a place where people could stay, let Mary and Joseph stay in a shed at the back for the donkeys. The shed was called a stable. Joseph made a bed for Mary in the straw and that night baby Jesus was born. Mary laid baby Jesus in the animal feeding box called a manger. She wrapped him in cloths that she had brought with her.

That night another angel came to some shepherds who were looking after their sheep outside of Bethlehem.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. I am bringing you good news. Today in Bethlehem, God’s Son was born.”

Then the shepherds saw many angels in the sky singing songs of praise to God. When the angels left, the shepherds hurried off to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. They found the stable and there was baby Jesus with Joseph and Mary. Then they ran to tell everyone that God’s Son had been born.

There was a special star in the sky that God had put there as a sign that baby Jesus had been born. There were some wise men travelling on camels from the East towards Bethlehem. They saw the star and knew that it was a special sign. It was a sign that a new king had been born.

They followed the star because they wanted to see the new king. It took them a long time to get to Bethlehem. By the time they got there, baby Jesus was already about one year old and Joseph and Mary were living in a house in Bethlehem.

The wise men went to King Herod and asked if he knew about a new born king. “No,” said King Herod, “but when you find him please come and tell me where he is so that I can see him too.”

King Herod was a bad king and did not want anyone else to take his place as king. He really wanted to get rid of baby Jesus.

But the wise me, being very wise, knew that they must not tell King Herod where baby Jesus was.

Finally they found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. They brought him gifts of gold and beautiful smelling spices and perfume. These were very expensive gifts for a king. Then they went home a different way to keep away from King Herod.

Discussion

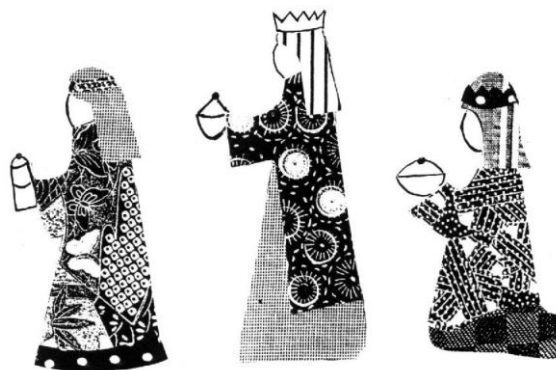
How did the wise men know that a new king had been born?
What kind of king did King Herod think Jesus was going to be?
Why can we say that kings and queens have power?
Did Jesus have power?
Why was His power different to the power of other kings?
When Jesus lived on earth, what powerful things did He do?
Can Jesus still do powerful things?

Act it out

Make up a play about the wise men and King Herod. King Herod calls the wise men to him and questions them about the new baby king. The wise men go to visit Jesus and then go home a different way so as to avoid Herod. Make royal robes from pieces of material, jewelled crowns from paper and cellophane, old jewellery/gold chains for extra ornamentation.

Art/Craft

Make a collage of the three kings presenting gifts. Children can use different types of wrapping paper or fabrics for their clothing. Alternative they can draw the kings and create patterned robes using pencils.



God is Lord and King

Week 2

Jesus wants to be King of our lives

Some people want to have Jesus as King of their lives. Some people do not.

Bible references

John 12:12-19 The triumphal entry

John 18:28-38 Jesus on trial for being King

Act it out

One child is chosen to be a king. Some can be the servants. Others can be part of the crowd waiting for the king to arrive. A herald trumpets the king's arrival and the servants roll out a red carpet. The crowd waves and shouts 'long live the king' as the king walks down the red carpet.

Discussion

Why do people get so excited when a king is coming?

Sometimes a red carpet is laid out for the king or queen to walk on. Why would this be done?

Last week we learned about the wise men that travelled a long way bringing gifts to the new born king. Who was the new born king?

When Jesus grew up Jesus did not become king of his country, Israel, but God showed the world that Jesus was king of the whole world. By dying on the cross Jesus made it possible for us to be God's children. For those who follow Jesus, he is our King and we are the people our King rules over. God our King shows us how to live and he looks after us when we ask him to be in charge of our life.

Christmas is a time when we remember that God sent his Son into the world for a special purpose. Easter is a time when we learn what that special purpose was.

When Christians celebrate Easter it is close to the time when Jewish people, from the land where Jesus lived, celebrate the Feast of Passover. This is the time when the Jews remembered how God saved his people in the time of Moses. It was when God rescued his people by taking them out of Egypt.

When Jesus lived on earth, the families had a big feast to remember the Passover. Jewish families today still celebrate the Passover today.

Bible Lesson: Jesus rides into Jerusalem

In this story we go back in time to when Jesus was on earth. It was the time of the Passover.

People were looking around for Jesus. "Do you think He will come to the Passover in Jerusalem?"

"I don't know. He may not come this year. Some men want to get rid of Him. They don't like what He says about them so they hate Him."

But Jesus and His disciples were just down the road a little way from Jerusalem, at a village called Bethpage.

Jesus stopped and spoke to His disciples.

"Will two of you please go ahead to that village...You will find a donkey tied there with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell them, 'The Master needs them' and he will let them go at once."

Jesus knew that, long before, a prophet had said, "Tell the city of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you. He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

So the two disciples went ahead and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them. Jesus got up on the donkey.

Crowds of people heard that Jesus was coming. They quickly spread their cloaks on the road. Others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road, too.

"Praise God! Praise God!"

"Hosanna! Hosanna!"

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

"Praise to the Son of David!"

The people shouted loudly to welcome Jesus. Some Pharisees in the crowd heard what the people said, they cried out to Jesus,

"Teacher, tell your disciples to be quiet!"

"I tell you," Jesus said, "that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting."

Jesus rode on into Jerusalem and looked around at everything. Then He went out of Jerusalem to Bethany where He and the disciples spent the night.

Discussion:

How did the people show Jesus that they wanted Him as king?

Why did they lay down their coats?

Bible lesson: Jesus Dies as King

It wasn't long after Jesus rode into Jerusalem that some people decided that this king called Jesus was becoming too popular with the crowds. "Maybe they will want Jesus to be king instead of Herod," they thought. They did not understand that Jesus was a different kind of king. He didn't want a throne or a crown or servants. He wanted the kingdom of God to be in people's hearts and lives.

Because Herod's followers were afraid of Jesus becoming too popular, they decided that they must kill Jesus.

"So you say that you are the King of the Jews," said Pilate, the Governor, sarcastically. "My kingdom does not belong to this world," said Jesus. "My kingdom is from another place called Heaven."

"So you are a king!" said Pilate.

"Yes," said Jesus. "I was born into the world to tell people the truth about God's Kingdom. People who listen to me and accept me can belong to this Kingdom."

Pilate did not understand.

"What should I do?" Pilate asked the people in the court.

"Kill Him!" they shouted.

Then Jesus was taken away by the soldiers. They made a thorny crown and put it on Jesus' head. They put a purple robe on Him because purple was the colour for a king. They laughed at Him and said for fun, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then they hit Him across the face.

Finally they nailed him to a cross and placed a sign above His head, 'The King of the Jews'. Someone said, "No. That is not right. It should be, 'This man SAID I am King of the Jews', but seeing that it was already written, they did not change it.

Although most people did not believe that Jesus was the Heavenly King, some did. On the third day Jesus showed the world that He had more power than any other king. He became alive again, and He lives forever as King. Jesus wants to be your King.

Discussion

How do we make Jesus our King?

ASK: (Ask Him into your life; ask for forgiveness)

OBEY: (God tells us in the Bible what He wants us to do)

FOLLOW: (Try to be like Jesus, and never give up being a Christian)



Art/Craft

Make a booklet about King Jesus, or fold a piece of paper into four:

Page 1: Jesus was born as king. (Draw baby Jesus in the stable.)

Page 2: Some people said, "We want King Jesus!" (Draw Jesus riding into Jerusalem)

Page 3: Some people said, "We don't want this king!" (Draw the cross that Jesus died on.)

Page 4: Jesus wants to be King of our hearts and lives. (Draw child reading the Bible.)

God is Lord and King

Week 3

Jesus will return as king and He will reign forever.

Bible references

Acts 1:6-10 Just as Jesus ascended into Heaven, He will return as King.

Psalms 47 God is king of all the earth.

Revelation 4:11 God is worthy to receive honour.

Revelation 5:12-13 Jesus is worthy to receive honour and praise.

Introduction

Think about the word 'forever'.

What does it mean?

Numbers can go on and on forever. We call this infinity.

Things don't last forever, but God's Kingdom does.

Bible Lesson: Jesus goes up to heaven

It was time for Jesus to go back to His Father in Heaven. Jesus took His friends to a hillside and prayed a blessing on them. They would now be carrying out the work that Jesus had done while on earth. The friends had been learning from Jesus for three years. Now it was their turn to teach people about God and to heal people through the power of God.

A cloud came down and hid Jesus. His friends could no longer see Him. The cloud went up into the sky. They stood looking up into the sky for a long time. Then all of a sudden two angels came.

"Why are you still looking up into the sky?" they asked.

"Jesus has gone up to Heaven, but one day He will come back again, in the same way that you saw Him leave.

Although the friends were sad that Jesus was no longer with them, they remembered what He had told them:

"Do not be afraid. Trust in me. I am going to prepare a place for you in Heaven. I will send my Holy Spirit to you to be your helper."

Discussion

Even though Jesus has gone back to Heaven, His Spirit is still with us. He is always there watching over us and helping us. If we love Jesus, we can live forever with Him.

As the disciples were watching Jesus go up into Heaven, two angels dressed in white appeared. They told the disciples that just as they saw Jesus go up into Heaven, He would come back one day in the same way.

When Jesus does come back, He will be a very powerful King. He will defeat Satan who will be put away forever, never more to do his evil works.

Art/Craft

Make a collage showing Jesus ascending to Heaven and the disciples standing watching. Use cotton wool for the clouds and fabric for clothing.

