

LESSON: JESUS THE HUMBLE KING

(Modified from 13 Most Important Lessons for Kids About God by Group Publishing)

Say: This month, we are celebrating Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ! The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. It also tells us that Jesus is a King.

Question: What do you know about kings? (*e.g. kings wear crowns, they are powerful, they rule over a kingdom, etc.*) Put on a crown. And explain how kings often wear crowns so that everyone knows that they are in charge, and how powerful they are.

Say: Let's read from Luke 1:30-33 to learn more about how God sent the Angel Gabriel to tell Jesus's mother, Mary, that her Son would be a great King.

Luke 1:30-33 NIRV

30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you.

31 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago.

33 The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

Say: Since Jesus was God who came to earth as a human, He was a different kind of king than normal human kings. The Bible tells us that Jesus was a *humble* king.

Question: Do you know what it means to be humble, or to have humility? (*e.g. putting others before yourself, not trying to prove that you are better than others, etc.*) What are some ways that we can be humble?

Say: Let's read what happen on the day of Jesus's birth:

Luke 2:1-7 NIRV

2 In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. 2 It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

4 So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. 5 He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. 6 While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. 7 She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

Say: Jesus was born in a barn, surrounded by smelly animals, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and placed in an animal feeding trough. (Show them a baby doll of Jesus wrapped in a cloth and then place him in the manger.)

Question: Is this the kind of place that you would expect that a future king would be born? Where do you think a normal king should be born?

Say: The Bible tells us that Jesus always put others first and that he wasn't concerned about looking like a king. In fact, instead of wearing a crown of gold, Jesus ended up wearing a crown of thorns. Let's read Philippians 2:6-8 to learn more about how humble that Jesus was.

Philippians 2:6-8 NIRV

6 In his very nature he was God.

Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact.

7 Instead, he made himself nothing.

He did this by taking on the nature of a servant.

He was made just like human beings.

8 He appeared as a man.

He was humble and obeyed God completely.

He did this even though it led to his death.

Even worse, he died on a cross!

Say: Jesus is the humble king. He could've stayed in heaven and not given us a way to be forgiven for our sins. Or he could've stayed in a palace, but instead he chose to come as a servant, offering himself as the sacrifice for our sins. As followers of our King Jesus, he wants us to also be humble like him.

READING #1 - Luke 1:30-33 NIRV

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READING #2 - Luke 2:1-7 NIRV

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READING #3 - Philippians 2:6-8 NIRV

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