

**VBS 2019 KING OF KINGS:
An Everlasting Kingdom**

CURRICULUM

VBS 2019 KING OF KINGS: An Everlasting Kingdom

Lesson 1

Judges 17:6 "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."

PLEASE REVIEW PRIOR TO TEACHING AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY FOR AGE APPROPRIATENESS

INTRO:

- Welcome everyone, familiarize everyone with new names if not already done.
- Ask the questions –
 1. Who makes the rules in your house?
 2. What are some important rules you have to follow?
 3. Are rules there just to make life harder or is there a good reason for rules?
- Your parents have to follow rules too. Imagine for a minute a world without rules...
 1. That might sound fun, until you think about all the bad things people could do.
(Can discuss further)
- Any good parent (caretaker, etc.) will set certain rules to keep everyone safe and happy. Who else can we think of that makes rules? (Kings/Queens)
- A good king will also make or help to make rules to keep his people safe and well.

FOCUS:

- So where did rules begin? The God who made everything is actually a great King – and He made rules for even the universe to follow so everything works together as it should. (As age appropriate you can touch on gravity, laws of physics, etc.)
- God is not only a great King, but He is also a good Father, and He made rules for His people to follow too – (10 Commandments, Leviticus,...). He had 3 Reasons for these rules - 2 Big Reasons and 1 Gigantic Reason.

The First Two Reasons God gave Israel Rules were:

1. To show His children the best way to live (love God, love others, be honest, be kind listen to your parents...)
2. To show Israel and all the people that lived nearby that Israel was different from everyone else– they followed the one true God – they did what was right

These first two reasons were good, but the problem was...Israel did not and could not follow all the rules all the time. And actually, as time went on, they broke their promise to follow God as their King. They stopped even trying. They didn't care about the best way to live or being different from the other people who did bad things. In fact, they looked around and decided they wanted to be just like those people.

So, have you ever gone in one of the spinning/revolving doors and couldn't get out? You just get stuck going around and around?

Well if you read about Israel, you may notice that they got stuck going around and around with this same cycle of:

They go against God
They get punished
They cry out to God
God sends a leader to deliver them
They do ok while the leader/judge is alive
The leader dies, then they go against God again

That cycle happens OVER AND OVER.

You see most people in Israel weren't interested in actually following God as their King/leader, they just wanted to follow a man/woman. As long as the man or woman was pointing them to God, they did ok, but as soon as no one was there, they fell right back into bad ways.

Does anyone know why? --- SIN

They had it, and we have it too.

Sin is the voice in our hearts telling us to do what *WE* want, not what God wants. To lie, to disobey our parents, to be hurtful to others, to not care about knowing and loving God.

Sin is what pulls us away from God. It puts a wall between us and God.

Israel kept turning away from God and wanting to be like all the people around them that worshipped fake gods and did terrible things because of their sin.

God had done wonderful things for them, but still they rejected him. And that brings us to that final GIGANTIC REASON why God made rules for His people in the first place:

3. You see God wasn't surprised that Israel couldn't keep His rules. He knew it would happen. He knew they were sinful, and He wanted them to see that too. He wanted the rules to teach His people that they couldn't ever be good enough rule followers to be good enough for Him. He wanted them to see that in order to be His children, His friends, and be loved by Him – they couldn't depend on rules, on being good, on themselves or on what they could do – they HAD to put their hope, their trust in SOMEONE else and what He would do.

That someone else is who we will be seeking to know more about this VBS – but I'll give you a big Hint – He is a King. A king that would fix their problem of sin – that would turn the hearts of God's people back to Him for good. A King who would reign forever.

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Lesson 2

“He (Kish the Benjamite) had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.” 1 Samuel 9:2

“But you have today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities and your distresses; yet you have said, ‘No, but set a king over us!...’” 1 Samuel 10:19

“...For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

PLEASE REVIEW PRIOR TO TEACHING AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY FOR AGE APPROPRIATENESS

INTRO:

- Welcome everyone back, introduce new faces if needed.
- Quick review of previous day:
 - Yesterday we talked about rules. Good rules given by parents, leaders, and God help to make life safer and happier.
 - We also talked about how Israel couldn't follow God's rules, and ultimately they kept running away from God after their own sinful wishes. We mentioned that we all have sin in our hearts that wants to push us away from God.
 - The rules God made are there to help show us that we have a problem with sin and to point us to the only One without sin that came to rescue us from ours.
- So today, we are going to keep talking about what happened next with Israel. Last we heard, they would not follow God as their king, and they were worshipping fake gods like the other people around them.

FOCUS:

Well, the people of Israel looked around and saw that all the other neighboring kingdoms had kings, and they began demanding to have a human king too.

God reminded Israel of all the marvelous and loving things He had done for them, and He warned them that if they had a human king, they would have to be his servants and do what he wanted and give him what he asked. Unlike God, a human king might not always be good and certainly wouldn't love them like God would, but Israel didn't care; they still demanded a king.

God then chose a king for them named Saul.

The Bible tells us that Saul was the tallest and handsomest man out of all the people of Israel – strong, tall, good looks – sounds like the perfect king right?

He might have looked like a perfect king, and he got off to a pretty good start, but he ultimately didn't obey God's commands. He was foolish – trusting in his own judgement instead of God's wisdom and fearing what people around him thought more than obeying God.

In the end, he didn't need to be handsome or tall to be a good king, he needed a heart that loved and trusted God above all else. So, God rejected Saul and chose someone else to be king over Israel who we will talk about tomorrow.

But the Bible tells of another King who was coming – one that probably didn't look like much from the outside.

In fact, Isaiah describes him like this:

*“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.” Isaiah 53:2-3*

(NIV version was used due to certain words requiring less explanation time)

Doesn't sound too kingly does he? No rich clothing, no crown, no sword (at least not yet). But Isaiah goes on to tell us that this king came to rescue his people – to take the terrible punishment for their sins on himself. To die for them.

He would have a heart of love, courage, and obedience to God – the true heart of a king.

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Lesson 3

“After He (God) had removed him (Saul), He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, A man after my heart, who will do all my will.’” Acts 13:22

“Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the Lord is with him.” 1 Samuel 16:18

PLEASE REVIEW PRIOR TO TEACHING AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY FOR AGE APPROPRIATENESS

INTRO:

- Welcome everyone back, introduce new kids if necessary
- Quick review:
 - Who can help remind us of what we have talked about so far this week?
 - God is a great King who makes good rules
 - People cannot follow God’s rules perfectly because of sin. Our sin separates us from God, and we need someone who is perfect to rescue us – to follow all of God’s law in our place and to take the punishment we deserve for breaking God’s law.
 - God gave these rules to Israel long ago, but they rejected God and asked for a human king.
 - Their first king was Saul – who looked like a perfect king on the outside but failed because he didn’t take God seriously and obey Him.
 - God judges people not by how they look on the outside – how pretty, handsome, or tall or what color hair they have – he judges them by their hearts – whether they have hearts that love Him and others or not.
- Today we are going to learn about the next king God chose for Israel. This man was one who had a heart like God wanted.

FOCUS:

- As we have already learned, God is the great King over all the universe, and no one knows better than Him what qualities make a good king. Let’s see what type of man God chose:
 - He chose David of Bethlehem, son of Jesse
 - David was the youngest in his family – a shepherd boy. Being a shepherd meant that all day and night he looked after his father’s sheep.

- To be a shepherd, he had to be brave. He had to spend the night out in the wild alone with the sheep, and actually fight off lions, bears, and wolves that wanted to eat his sheep.
 - He also had to be kind and caring – searching for missing sheep, looking after lambs and tending to sick and injured sheep.
 - David had to be wise and vigilant – he always had to know the safest places with the best food and water for his flock.
 - Most of all - in all that time alone in the wild, David learned about God and learned to trust in God. He saw God's majesty, power, and wisdom in all the creation around him. He felt God's love and protection those stormy nights he was all alone. We can see David's trust and love for God in all the of the songs he wrote that are recorded in the Bible.
- So, it turns out that shepherding actually is great preparation for learning how to be a good king. In fact, God refers to Himself as a shepherd over His people.
- David was a truly great king. For his whole life he led Israel well – but he wasn't perfect. He messed up really bad a couple times. When he sinned, his heart was truly grieved, and he turned away from his sin to God asking forgiveness. He trusted that God was still sending a King greater than himself to come and redeem His people from their sin.
- God even promised David that the King He was sending would be one of his descendants. David didn't know all the details of who or when, but he had faith in God's promise.

Tomorrow Night we will end our VBS by learning more about this promised King.