

## RELEVANCE

Is it better to live in a kingdom or in a republic? Explain your answer.

Will heaven be a kingdom or a republic? What will this mean for our lives now and in God's kingdom?

## SUMMARY

What is the story about?

- a. God is a weak King with no real power to rule. He lets the people do whatever they like but gets angry and loses his temper whenever the people annoy him. In his rage He kills people but God also regrets his actions and lets the people do whatever they want. He lets them choose a king for themselves.
- b. God is a control freak. He doesn't like people doing their own things. So when the people ask for a human king God makes a list of requirements so that He can keep some control over his people. God so wants to be in control that he plans to make his kingdom last forever so that he can control his people forever.
- c. God loves his people so much that he will give them whatever they want. So when they ask for a king, God feels sad but he allows it anyway because He doesn't want to hurt their feelings. But God is also very smart because he has a plan to use the king as a way to introduce Jesus His Son who will come later as the King.
- d. God is the loving King and has always been the King. But human beings do not like this because they have eaten the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Instead of letting God rule over them, the people eventually ask for one of them to be king over them. It is a direct rejection of God as their King. However, God in his wisdom allows it because this is part of his plan to make Jesus the King of the universe. Jesus is the true King because he lays down his life for his people; but He will also punish those who reject him as King.

How hard or how easy is it for you to let Jesus be your King? What kind of struggles or encouragements can you share with the group?

## PRAY.



# STUDY 5 — DAVID AND THE KINGS

## THE STORY SO FAR

As a whole group together try combining your efforts to retell the story of studies 1, 2, 3 and 4; but this time try to make it more interesting (by highlighting special events or problems or unusual parts or taking turns to tell different episodes). You can use stories, drawings or diagrams.

## WHAT WE MISSED ALONG THE WAY

Today's study is about the kings of Israel. We will focus on King David but lots has happened along the way. So let's look at what we missed.

After Moses led the people out of Egypt, they arrived at Mount Sinai and God gave them the 10 commandments and instructions to build a transportable temple called the Tabernacle. God gave them these two things as an agreement between God and the people. Because God had rescued them from slavery, the people of Israel were not to worship idols, they were to worship only God by obeying the 10 commands. However, God also knew that they will not be able to follow these commands so God gave them the temple rules and rituals as a way to forgive them when they sin.

But the people were really sinful and they complained about God. So God punished them by making them wander around the dessert for 40 years until a whole generation died. During this time God was literally their leader, the people would go wherever God took them. When the generation that complained against God had died, God gave them the land which He had promised Abraham. They lived in the land but they had no King. God was their King. Whenever they got into trouble and the people around them attacked them, God would raise up a 'judge' to rescue his people. This was how the people lived for many years in the land. God was their King. But life in the land was not all good because the people did whatever their hearts desired. Sin was still a big problem.

#### OPENING DISCUSSION

If you had a king ruling over you, what would you expect that king to be like? Make a short list of desired qualities.

#### READ DEUTERONOMY 17:14–20.

What are the requirements for selecting a king?

- a. v15
- b. v16
- c. v17

What must the king do and what must he be like?

- a. v18-19
- b. v20

How does this description of a king compare with your expectations in the discussion question above?

#### READ 1 SAMUEL 8.

Why did the elders of Israel ask for a king?

v5

According to God, what was the real reason for asking for a king?

v7,8

#### READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1–16.

By this time David had become the second king of Israel, replacing Saul who was the first king.

According to this passage what did David want to do for God?

Why did God reject David's idea to build Him a house? What did 'house' mean in this context?

Instead, what will God do for the king and for his people?

v9,10

v11-16

Who is this king going to be (a King whose kingdom will last forever)?

#### READ ISAIAH 52–53. (OPTIONAL, IF TIME PERMITS ONLY.)

How is the king described in these chapters of Isaiah?

How did Jesus fulfil this prophecy?

#### WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY?

Read Romans 1:1–6.

Who is the descendant of David who is King of God's eternal kingdom?