

The King Is Here Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If you could meet a famous ruler from history, whom would you choose?
2. Do you have any Easter traditions? Explain.

Read the following passages: Mark 11:1-25.

Every Jewish person in the first century was asking the same questions: When is God going to come to us? When will he rescue us? When will he give us a king? Jesus had an answer: Right now. But Jesus was not the kind of king most people were expecting. Somehow he was both a human king in the line of David and, at the same time, Yahweh himself! Even so, he did not come to establish a political kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom.

Jesus's actions of cursing a fig tree and cleansing the temple indicated that God was judging the religious leaders and the current religious system. But this was connected with the new covenant that Jesus was about to establish through his death and resurrection. We, too, often need to bring some old things to an end so we can walk in the new things God has for us.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some of the ways that the Gospel writers show us that Jesus, though human, could also be identified with Yahweh, the one true God?
2. Read John 18:36. How did Jesus's understanding of the arrival of God's kingdom differ from that of most of his contemporaries? Does Jesus's perspective on God's kingdom impact how we should think about the relationship of the Church and politics? Explain.
3. Read Matthew 21:33-46. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit?" What kind of fruit do you think God was looking for?
4. Read John 15:1-2. What are some areas of your life that need "pruning" so that you can be more fruitful?
5. Read Mark 11:25. Are there any areas of your life in which you are holding on to resentment or unforgiveness? Explain. If so, what's keeping you from extending forgiveness?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. Are there any relationships in your life that need pruning? Explain.
7. Do you ever find yourself more concerned about following a set of religious rules than connecting with God? Explain.
8. Read Mark 11:17. Are you creating space in your life to connect with those who don't yet follow Jesus? Explain. Whom can you invite to an Easter service?
9. Jesus told his disciples to have faith in God. How can faith in God inspire us to take action?
10. Are you growing in faith in this season of your life? If so, what is helping you grow?

Pray