

Christ the King

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 18:33-37


Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Christ the King

Lesson Focus
**Jesus is a different kind
of king.**



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Arrival Time Kids learn to say, "Christ the King," in sign language and do an Activity Page.</p>	<p>Activity Pages </p>	<p>Pencils or markers</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids greet each other using the letter K, hear about the church season, and remember Bible stories about kings.</p>	<p>Leaflet</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids pray the Lord's Prayer.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Christ the King Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids make a crown with their hands when they hear the word <i>king</i>.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bibles</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Jesus and Pontius Pilate Kids fill in the blanks to retell the story.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>Pencils</p>
<p>My King Is a Special King Kids list 10 people they love.</p>	<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>Pencils</p>

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Names for Jesus Kids do a word search of names for Jesus.	Leaflets	Pencils
What Kind of King? Kids note the differences between Jesus and other kings.	Leaflets	None
Crown Creations Kids decorate their own crown to take home.	None	Flat construction paper cut-out crown shapes, stickers, glue sticks, glitter, fake gems

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week and gather to say good-bye.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids pray the Lord's Prayer in a special way.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksondayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out copies of the Activity page for this lesson and pencils or markers on a table.

Show kids how to say “Christ the King” in sign language.

For the word *Christ*, make a C shape with your right hand. Place that C shape up by your left shoulder and draw it down to your right hip, as if you were wearing a sash.

For the word *king*, make a sign language K with your right hand by extending your first two fingers as if showing a V or peace sign, and place your thumb so that it “peeks” between your first two fingers. Draw the K across your body from left shoulder to right hip, just as you did with the C for Christ. Practice it a few times; then say, **Today is Christ the King Sunday. Who can show me how to say it in sign language?**

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Pencils or markers



Christ



King

Circle Time

Let’s welcome everyone today. For each person in our class, we will say, “God welcomes *name of kid* into the family of God!” Today we recognize Christ the King Sunday and hear a Bible story with the same title. King begins with the letter K. Let’s use the letter K today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with the letter K. I will go first. “I like kale, but I don’t like ketchup.” Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.

Hold up a leaflet, and point to the picture of the new lectionary symbol (*crown with a cross*) on the lectionary color background (*gold*) under the lesson title. **Look at the front of our leaflet. What picture clue do you see? (*crown with a cross*) What color is the crown and the cross? (*white*) We are just finishing the Pentecost season, but today has its own celebration. We are celebrating Christ the King Sunday today. On this Sunday we think back to all the parts of Jesus’ life, his birth, his time of working for God on earth, his death, and his resurrection. The color white is used to celebrate Christ the King Sunday and other special days in the church year. Why do you think that white is a good color for Christ the King?**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

When we gathered today, we learned how to say, "Christ the King," in sign language. I bet we could all do that signing together. Pause to do the signing. **Has anyone here ever met a king? You know, it's sort of a trick question, because we meet kings in our Bible stories. Let's try to remember some Bible stories about kings. There was a king when Jesus was born. Do you remember his name? (King Herod) And there was a king in the Old Testament who wrote Psalms and played the harp. I wonder if you know his name. (King David) Today's Bible story is called Christ the King. In this story, Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"**

Prayer Time

Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Say the version you and the kids are most familiar with, or invite kids to follow along as you read the version in the Spark Story Bible, page 280. Invite kids to listen for the word *kingdom* in the Lord's Prayer. Remind them that we pray that God's kingdom would come on earth as in heaven.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Christ the King Storytelling

Let's listen to the Bible story about Jesus as a king. Jesus is a different kind of king.

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles, and invite everyone to find the story Christ the King on pages 474-475. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

In today's story Christ the King, some people were mad at Jesus. They didn't think he was the kind of king they wanted. But Jesus knew that he was following God's ways. Jesus knew that God's kingdom isn't like other kingdoms. Now we'll read the story again. This time, when you hear the word *king*, hold your hands up like a crown on your head. Demonstrate.

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. Who asked Jesus if he was king of the Jews?** (*Pontius Pilate*)
- 2. Who wanted to get rid of Jesus?** (*the priests*)
- 3. Why do you think the priests wanted to get rid of Jesus?** Affirm all responses.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Jesus and Pontius Pilate

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet and pencil. Hold the stickers until they have answered the question about what is missing from the picture. Guide kids through the activity, allowing time for responses to questions and discussion.

Look at the picture on the first page. Something is missing. Can you guess what or who isn't there today? (*one of the priests*) **Who complained about Jesus in the Bible story?** (*the priests*) **Hand out stickers to kids so they can complete the picture. Use the sticker of the priest to finish the picture, then we'll tell the story of Christ the King.** Pause to give kids time to place their stickers.

Do you see the place to fill in the blanks? Let's figure out which word goes on each line. The _____ were mad at Jesus. Which people were mad at Jesus? (*the priests*) **Do you remember why they were mad?** Work through the rest of the answers with the group.

Let's look the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.

Today's story, Christ the King, is from the book of John. John was one of Jesus' best friends! The book of John is the last of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (*Christ, friends, last*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"
John 18:34

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

My King Is a Special King

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. Ask for a volunteer to read the sentences. Help with the words as needed. **Today is Christ the King Sunday. Today we remember that Jesus was a different kind of king. Jesus got his power from God's love. Jesus loves you, and I know there are lots of people that you love, too! Here are spaces to write the names of 10 people who love. You can pray for them, just as Jesus prayed for people.**

Whom do you love?

As kids work, ask them about some of the people whose names they are writing.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Names for Jesus

Let's look at the third page of your leaflet. Do you have more than one name? What do your friends call you? What do your teachers call you? Lots of people have nicknames. Guess what—Jesus had lots of names in the Bible. Let's read the names for Jesus: Immanuel (Pronounced "Ee-manuel"), King, Lamb, Wonderful, Son, Messiah, Savior, Lord, Christ, God with us. Which names do you like to call Jesus? Now see if you can find all the names for Jesus in the word search. I think I'll give each of you a new name: Super Word Searcher!

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

What Kind of King?

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. Today we have been talking about Jesus being a different kind of king. "Different from what?" do you think? Let's find out what regular kings might use and what things Jesus might use.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Look at and read the activity on the last page of the leaflet. **We have lots of pictures here. Let's point to some of the things a regular king might need.** Pause. **But, of course, Jesus did things in a different way. What did Jesus use in his kingdom? Let's point to the pictures of things that Jesus used as king.**

Supplies
None

Extend this activity by asking these follow-up questions: **What other things can you think of that would be different between the king of a country and Jesus, a different kind of king?** (for example, travel: coach and horses for kings, donkey or on foot for Jesus; clothing: fancy robes, velvet, furs for kings, wool cloak for Jesus; shoes: leather shoes or boots for kings, sandals for Jesus)

Tear here for easy use!

Crown Creations

Place art materials on a table in a way that kids can easily find what they need. Give one crown shape to each kid.

What do most kings wear? Today we talked about Jesus and how he was a different kind of king. Let's make a crown that we can wear to remember our Spark Story Bible story from today. Jesus is a different kind of king, the King of love. Let's write the word LOVE on our crowns and decorate them to take home. It will remind us of Christ the King. We are part of God's kingdom, too. When we put on our crown, we can think of God's love for us and our love for other people.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Flat construction paper cut-out crown shapes
Stickers
Glue sticks
Glitter
Fake gems

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about Christ the King and how his kingdom is so different from every other kingdom on earth. Jesus' power came from love. You and I can live out God's love as we talk to people every day. We can show love to our family and friends. Whom do you want help or show love to this week?

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other what we did!

When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection for you this week. Then make the sign of the cross in a friend's palm and say, "Jesus is a different kind of king." As each kid leaves, do the same for them and ask them to do the same for you.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils
Scissors

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Use the Lord's Prayer again as a closing prayer. Start by encouraging everyone to crouch down, holding hands with one another around the circle and whispering the words. As you reach the words "give us this day" in the prayer, stand up and start speaking in a regular voice. As you say, "For thine/yours is the kingdom," lift your clasped arms overhead and speak even more loudly. After you say, "Amen," pause, standing completely still, until someone moves.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!