



The Word @ Home

Christ the King Sunday
Gospel Reading: Luke 23:33-43

The Point

Jesus is the one true king, but he is not the one everyone expected.

Key Verse

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
– Luke 23:38

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

The Crucified King

Even when Jesus is being crucified, Jesus prays for forgiveness for his persecutors. He is mocked as King of the Jews, but those mocking him do not realize that Jesus is king not only of the Jews but the king of kings. One of the criminals crucified with him derides Jesus, while the other rebukes the derider. The second asks Jesus for mercy, believing that he is the king and that this is not the end of Jesus' kingdom. Jesus promises that this repentant criminal will be with Jesus in paradise.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

God condemns the leaders of Israel with an analogy of shepherds who destroy and scatter, doing the opposite of their jobs. God will raise up better shepherds and the people will not fear nor be lost.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

The writer gives a blessing that the people be strong, giving thanks to God who has rescued us and moved us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son. God's Son is no usual king, but the one through whom we have forgiveness.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is Christ the King Sunday. This is the final Sunday in the liturgical year, meaning that a new year begins next Sunday with the beginning of Advent. Christ the King Sunday celebrates the kingship of Jesus, and how this kingship in turn influences our response to him. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus takes the expectations of even this kingship and turns them upside down.

Discussion Starters

- If you were royalty, what would you do for your people?
- How is Jesus different from most kings?
- Take turns being royalty for a day. Give the royal one a symbol to carry for the day. After a week, talk about how the different royalty acted.

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, you are our one true king. Thank you for being a loving example of a servant king. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Luke 23:33-43 Jesus is crucified.
Find a cross in your home or church. Retell the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

Monday

Read Revelation 21:5-27 The new Jerusalem is described.
Use blocks to build the new Holy City, Jerusalem.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 24 A king is coming.
Sing a song together about Jesus as King. Search for titles or videos online if you cannot think of one.

Wednesday

Read Luke 1:1-4 The Gospel is introduced.
We are finishing a year of reading from the Gospel of Luke. Talk about how it is different to read this introduction as we conclude this book.

Thursday

Read James 4:1-10 God favors the humble.
Humility means thinking of others before yourself. This week, be intentional about serving your family members.

Friday

Read Hebrews 11:1-7 Faith is confidence in what we hope for.
Which of these heroes of the faith are you like? Why?

Saturday

Read Genesis 6:11-22 Noah builds the ark.
Float a toy boat in a large bowl as you listen to this story.



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
You are the child of a king.