

LONGING FOR JESUS THROUGH ISRAEL



Share how this third week of the Advent Guide has gone at your house.

What are some plans/things you're doing in order to make the most of this Advent season?

Discuss some opportunities that may exist for you as a Life Group this Advent (pp.4-5 of the Guide).

**Feel free to discuss questions from Week 3 of the Advent Guide in addition to or in place of this Sermon Study Guide*

OPENING COMMENT

We live in a world where we constantly battle things and people that want to rule us. And they will - if we let them. It requires diligence to keep Christ "on the throne" - as the ruler and King of our lives. God's desire and plan has always been to rule and reign in love and justice over His people - to lead them as only He can. But His people rejected this, asking instead for an earthly king to rule them, which is exactly what God gave them. As imperfect (downright disastrous, really!) as this system was, God used it to set David upon the throne, promising that his line would never cease to rule. Ultimately this promise is fulfilled in Christ. Does He have rule, reign and all authority as King over our lives today?.

What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 8 and 12:12-25

Additional reading if time permits:

1 Samuel 15:22-23, 28:16-19 & Matthew 1:1, 17, 18-2:2



KING FOR ISRAEL / KING FOR ALL

1. Israel's misdirected longing for a king
2. God's redirected plan for a King
3. The wise men directed to The King
4. Receiving our direction from The King
5. Longing directly for The King

1. Identify and discuss Israel's five misdirected longings for a king, found in [1 Samuel 8:3,5a,7b,9-18,19a](#). Do any of these resonate with you?
2. Share about a time that you longed for something, but it turned out to be a misdirected longing. What were the consequences? How did God redirect you according to His plan?
3. What are some things that tend to pull your allegiance away from Jesus? Discuss ways that you can resist allowing those longings to over take obedience to Christ.
4. What does the rule & reign of Jesus as King (Lord) of your life look like? What does the kingdom of God & submitting to the King look like? What are some Scriptures that support your views & beliefs? In light of Sunday's message here are some suggested passages to aid discussion: [Matthew 20:17-28, 24:45-51](#); [Matt 6:19-24](#), [1 Cor 6:12-20](#); [Col 3:15](#), [1 Tim 2:1-6](#), [1 Peter 5:6-11](#), [Romans 5:1-2a](#), ...
5. In light of Jesus' return, how ought we to live as servants of the King?
6. Have you, like the wise men, been directed to The King? If so, do you anticipate and long for Jesus return or do you find yourself living life in the here and now, asking if this is what it is all about? If you've never bowed to Jesus as your Lord and King, would you like to do so now?
7. Consider purchasing the book *Saturate: Being Disciples of Jesus in the Everyday Stuff of Life* (Jeff Vanderstelt) and together as a group discuss a section a month.

SHARE & PRAY

- Take some time to thank God for firmly establishing His rule & reign in the perfect person of Jesus. Pray in ways that you intentionally "long for Jesus".
- Thank God for sending His Son Jesus and for the joy that the gospel brings to your life.
- Pray *big* prayers, asking God to work in mighty, redemptive, gospel-advancing ways this Advent season.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another and the needs among you.

