

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 26

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 26: *How doth Christ execute the office of a king?*

ANSWER: Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 45A

Scripture: Read John 18:28-37

Key Thought: *Jesus Christ is the true king.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is the function of a king?
- ☞ Why was it necessary for the office of king to be instituted by God? (see Judges 21:25)
- ☞ What part of man's fallen nature does the office of king address?
- ☞ How is King Jesus better than all earthly kings?

Prayer

Notes: The third office that Christ executes as our Redeemer is the office of a king. Like the priests and prophets of the Old Testament, the office of king also looked forward to a particular part of Christ's work of redemption for His people. Point out to your children that the role of a king (or any civil ruler) is to enforce the law and ensure that justice is done. He does this by punishing the wicked and protecting and rewarding the righteous. The fall of mankind made outward government necessary because our hearts were corrupted and we were no longer able or willing to exercise self-control according to God's laws. The particular part of our fallen nature addressed by the office of king is our fallen righteousness. Adam was created with original righteousness, which means that he did what was right before God and his fellow creatures. But Adam's sin was a rebellion against God's laws of righteousness. In his fall, we lost the ability and desire to govern or control our wicked desires and to act "rightly" toward God and others. God therefore appointed rulers over all people who would punish sin, preserve order and peace, and point men to their need for restored righteousness. Earthly kings were and are only a pale reflection of the true king, Jesus Christ. Discuss some of the ways that King Jesus is better and more powerful than the kings of the earth. Praise God for sending the King of kings to restore our fallen righteousness.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 45A

Scripture: Read Romans 8:1-17

Key Thought: *As king, Christ subdues us and rules over us.*

Questions:

- ☞ Are we born friends or enemies of Christ?
- ☞ How does Christ change us from enemies to friends?
- ☞ How does Christ rule over us for our good?
- ☞ How are individual conscience, family, church, and state all to be under the rule of Christ?
- ☞ What happens when Christ's rule is resisted in any of these?

Prayer

Notes: The *Catechism* shows us that Christ is king in reference to His people, and also in reference to His enemies. Today we consider the kingship of Christ in relation to His people. Since all men are born sinful, no one is a citizen of the kingdom of Christ by birth. We come into the world as His enemies, and our hearts must be subdued in order for us to be changed into His friends. This subduing of our hearts takes place through the Word and Spirit, as we are confronted by our sinfulness and brought to see the desperate condition of our souls in light of God's perfect holiness. Through the law, which shows us our need, we are humbled and subdued before Christ and made to bow before Him, confess His kingship, and plead for His mercy and forgiveness. As our hearts are subdued to Christ, a new governing principle takes root in us. Formerly, we followed only the dictates of our own selfish desires. Now, as subjects of Christ, our hearts are made willing to follow His commandments and to gladly submit to His wise and perfect laws. Discuss with your children how the rule of Christ is to be reflected in every area of life. Talk about how the individual, the family, the church, and the state are to be under His rule, obeying the principles of His Word as they apply in each institution. Discuss the consequences that appear when the rule of Christ through His Word is resisted or ignored in any of these areas.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 45A

Scripture: Read Psalm 20:1-9; Ephesians 6:10-18

Key Thought: *As king, Christ defends us.*

Questions:

- ☞ How does a king defend his kingdom and its people?
- ☞ Who and what are the enemies of the kingdom of Christ?
- ☞ How does King Jesus defend His kingdom and its people?

☞ What equipment has He provided for us to protect us from our enemies?
Prayer

Notes: Another important part of the work of Christ as our king is that He defends us against the attacks of our enemies. Earthly kings defend their lands and people through armies, strategy, and weapons. King Jesus defends us through His sovereign power. As God, Jesus is the mover of nations and kingdoms. No king or country holds power apart from His purpose and permission. Since He controls all nations by His power as God, He is able to protect and defend His people from every enemy, whether spiritual or physical. Help your children to identify some of the enemies of Christ and His people, emphasizing particularly the world, the flesh, and the devil. Show them the armor and weapons that Jesus has provided for His people, and discuss the importance and meaning of each piece of the armor of God. Finally, stress the importance of prayer, by which the help of our king is promised to those who call upon Him in faith. Praise God for His promise to defend us and for the power by which He guards us from our enemies. Pray for grace to make the most of each part of the spiritual armor that He has provided for you.

 THURSDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 45A

Scripture: Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Revelation 19:11-16

Key Thought: *As king, Christ restrains and conquers all His and our enemies.*

Questions:

- ☞ Why do men and nations hate Christ and fight against Him?
- ☞ Are there some who will remain His enemies forever?
- ☞ What does it mean to restrain something? How does Jesus restrain His enemies?
- ☞ Through what means does Jesus conquer His enemies?
- ☞ Is He in the process of conquering them now?

Prayer

Notes: Not only does King Jesus defend us from the attacks of all His and our enemies, but He powerfully restrains and conquers them. Explain to your children that while God in His mercy transforms some from enemies to friends of Christ, there are some who will remain His enemies forever. They are His enemies because their hearts are hardened and they refuse to see their sin and their need of Christ. As long as they live, they are determined to resist and fight against truth and godliness, rather than submitting to Jesus and pleading for His grace. The Bible says that such men willfully suppress the truth because they love wickedness more than the truth. But the wicked will never prevail.

Christ restrains them by His power, so that they may only go so far in their wicked schemes and they are never outside of His control. Also, Christ conquers them by His power. Sometimes He conquers them by cutting off their plans through the works of providence. Sometimes He conquers them by bringing sudden judgments upon them. Sometimes He conquers them by giving strength and victory to His people. As king, Jesus is now reigning in power and He is in the process of bringing every enemy into submission.

 FRIDAY

Praise: Sing Psalm 45A

Scripture: Read Psalm 2:1-12; Philippians 2:9-11

Key Thought: *All people must submit to King Jesus.*

Questions:

- ☪ What is commanded of the kings of the earth in Psalm 2:10-12?
- ☪ What does it mean for kings of earth to “kiss the Son”?
- ☪ Is there any creature that will not eventually bow and confess that Jesus is Lord?
- ☪ How can you tell if you are submitting to Him willingly?

Prayer

Notes: Jesus is the king of kings, regardless of whether men accept His kingship as fact or not. All are commanded to submit to Him and serve Him. Those men and nations who submit to Him will be blessed, and those who resist Him will fall. One day, every creature will be made to bow and confess Him as Lord, whether willingly or unwillingly. On that day, those who have resisted Him will face His final judgment and wrath. Even some who claimed to follow Him, but who did not walk according to His Word, will be banished forever from His presence. Jesus tells us that those who truly bow to Him as Lord are known by their deeds. They do what He says. They walk according to His truth. They practice righteousness, even when no one else is looking. This is the sign of a heart that has been restored by the kingship of Jesus. Remember that He came as king to restore our fallen righteousness, so that we would willingly and gladly act rightly (biblically) toward God and our fellow man. Carefully examine your heart and life for real evidence that King Jesus has subdued you to Himself, and pray for constant faithfulness to His Word.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.