

Lesson 4

Cross

Formed

Kids

What special instructions did God provide for Israel's king?

God instructed the king to know God's word and lead God's people in holiness.

Read aloud: Deuteronomy 14:14-17

Recommended Illustration

Before the lesson, find 2 toys that require complex enough assembly that instructions will be necessary. Next, swap the instructions and give one of the toys to your kids so that when they open the toy and begin trying to assemble it, they will be doing so using the wrong instructions.

Allow them to make a reasonable effort, but when they begin to become frustrated, supply them with the correct instructions and assemble the toy together as a family.

Transition by explaining to your kids the importance of God's instruction to the King. If he did not follow God's instruction, he may still be a "good king" by the world's definition, but only God's Word could make him the King God had called him to be.

Helpful Insights

God's instruction to the king is clarifying for us as we seek to understand the theme of kingship in the scriptures. God didn't instruct the king to go

and make war against Israel's enemies. God didn't instruct him to throw great parties and prepare great feasts. God didn't instruct him to make sure his servants take good care of his throne and polish his crown each day. God didn't instruct him to do anything that we might think of as "kingly."

Why not? Why does God's vision of kingship differ so drastically from that of the surrounding nations? The reason is that God wasn't concerned with the king's reputation as much as he was concerned about his own reputation. A king who is handsome and successful in battle might well become famous and even become the envy of nations. But this wouldn't increase God's fame at all. Only a king who cherishes God's word could become holy. Only a holy king could honor the true kingship that belongs to God alone.

The Point

To protect his glory, God instructs the king in the one thing that would lead to God's own fame, and therefore the ultimate happiness of his people: to know and cherish God's word and lead the people in holiness.

