



KING JESUS

# LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE



# INSTRUCTIONS

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Welcome to your Life Group Leader Guide! We are so excited you are partnering with us during this series. We believe this will set the tone for this year and help us all refocus.

Within this guide, you will find questions prompted from our 7-week sermon series called *King Jesus*. We hope this provides you with rich discussion and unique challenges in your faith journey as a Life Group. To prepare, simply use this guide, and be sure to watch the sermons (in person or online) prior to discussing. To go even further, be sure to read the book titled *King Jesus*. We will have those available at LCC.

Great questions to begin your time with are:

1. What stuck out to you from the reading this week?
2. What challenged you?
3. Is there anything you struggle with from the reading?

Tips for you as a group leader:

- You DON'T have to answer every question or respond to every thought that comes up during your meeting.
- Be sure to thank people for sharing.
- Remember that often, their questions and thoughts are answered during the discussion.
- Always end with: What's one thing you'll take away from this study this week and try?

# WEEK 1

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This week's goal is to explore the reality of Jesus as King. We start in 1 Samuel as God's people express their desire for a king. We will look backward to see where this comes from. We will then look forward from God's promise to David onto the final picture of Jesus to communicate the reality of Jesus as King. We see glimpses of Jesus as King all throughout the Bible.

1. Share a story of a time when you should have trusted your parents.
2. Share a story of something thrilling, rewarding, and amazing that you've been part of.
3. What ways have you experienced this to be true: *"Crowning Jesus king of your life is the most thrilling, rewarding, and amazing thing you will ever do."*
4. When you think of "king", what images come to mind? What do you think it means to crown Jesus as King?
5. In a moment of honesty, as you feel comfortable, what bad models of King Jesus have you allowed into your life? What bad theology have you followed? What selfishness have you dealt with in your own heart?
6. Read through the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20). Which of Jesus' instructions intrigues you? Which ones scare you? Discuss your answers.
7. How do you think most people in your life understand Jesus? What do they believe about Him?
8. How often do you think of King Jesus as the God of the Universe?
9. Why do you think it is important to see the kingdom of God as something that is available now?

# WEEK 2

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This week, we explore the challenges that humanity has faced in accepting the fullness of Jesus as King. We use the encounter between Jesus and His disciples prior to His transfiguration as the main text. Then we focus on the question, “Who do people say that I am?”

1. READ Matthew 16: 13-20. Which distorted views of Jesus do you feel are the most common in among Christians in our culture?
2. Which of these distorted views have you held at some point in your life?
3. Why do you think these are so prevalent?
4. Is there anything about the real Jesus that has surprised you?
5. If someone were to ask you “Who do you say Jesus is?”, what would be your answer? Would you struggle? Would you over-explain? What are the pitfalls of both? As a group, share how you can explain who Jesus is, knowing that most of what people understand about who Jesus is comes from how you live your own life.

# WEEK 3

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This week we explore the human struggle to submit to authority. We've all been there right? Often! It's a struggle rooted in the origins of the human race. This week we reveal how living for King Jesus begins with surrender and submission.

1. What is a hobby or area of interest where you would be able to excel if you were more intentional or had a coach?
2. READ Matthew 28:18-20 (pp.56-57 in the book if you have it). What parts of this Great Commission interests you the most?
3. Page 59 in the book (if you're following along), *"Much of the distrust of authority in North America is little more than an infantile desire to remain in charge. Americans want to command their own destiny, define their own existence, and determine their own rules, even when they don't know how. Even when it has devastating results."*
4. What is your reaction to this statement?
5. In what ways does this bother you?
6. How have you experienced this to be true?
7. What do you think it looks like to surrender to the authority of King Jesus in your relationships, money, body, and emotions? Try to give time to reflect on each of these areas in your group.

# WEEK 4

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This week we explore the significance of discipleship. We see what it looked like before Jesus and how He improved upon it. You'll see that Jesus made this a vital part of every follower's life. We are to be a people who make other disciples while continuing our own growth.

1. What do you believe are the biggest differences between a disciple and a church member? Which contrasts exists in your life? Do you want to correct just being a church member and become a disciple? How will you do that?
2. Jesus spent most of His time with 12 ordinary people, training them, equipping them, loving them, and teaching them to do God's will on earth as it is in heaven. What thoughts come to mind when you think of Jesus' method of disciple-making? Does it fit what you currently do?
3. What or who has helped you grow as a follower of Jesus?
4. READ 1 John 2:6, Matthew 28:19, and Matthew 4:18-22.
5. What are your reactions to the movement of disciple-making that's happening in our church?
6. Do you believe you possess what it takes to be a disciple-maker? Why or Why not?
7. (If you're reading the book) — Share your thoughts about the transformation in David's son seen on p.89.

# WEEK 5

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This week we teach on baptism! We emphasize the picture of being fully immersed. Our bodies, our minds, and hearts all completely immersed into Christ. This is a great opportunity to answer questions we have about baptism and to encourage each of us to follow Jesus' example here.

**Take time this week to not only discuss baptism but do something fun with your group, family, etc.**

1. READ Matthew 28:19 and Romans 6.
2. In what ways does your life reflect Jesus as King? In what ways does it not? What ways do you wish you reflected Jesus more?
3. (If you're reading the book) — Review the descriptions of sprinkled, dipped, or immersed (pp.100-104). Where are you now and where have you been?
4. What steps have you not yet taken in your walk with Jesus? What steps do you need to revisit to refresh your walk with Jesus?

# WEEK 6

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This week we explore the importance of obedience in the life of a disciple. This connects back to the first three weeks in our series on authority. Obedience is hard for us in our culture, especially when it means that we are inconvenienced. But here we see just how fruitful it is to be obedient to Jesus alone as our King.

1. Share about a time in your life when your obedience to someone led to deeper understanding.
2. Share about a time when you obeyed God's Word and it led to better understanding.
3. READ John 13:34-35, John 14:15, and John 15.
4. Did you know that in the first 200 years of the church, obedience to the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus was a staple in the life of the church? What changed?
5. (If you're reading the book) — Read Aldous Huxley's description on p.124. What are your thoughts to this description?
6. *"We learn to feel according to our actions."* How have you experienced this to be true? How does this impact the way you react to a situation?
7. What would it take to resolve to obey Jesus in the areas you struggle to obey right now?

# WEEK 7

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This week we see how through the presence of the Spirit, the presence of the King is always with us. We come to a greater understanding of God's presence always in the lives of His followers. This is a great way to end our series on King Jesus, with the reminder that He's always with us. Help your group end this 7-week series with that in mind!

1. (If you're reading the book) — Review the story of the tornado. How would you have reacted in the tornado? Why do you say so?
2. Have you witnessed a miracle during your life? If so, please share the story.
3. READ Acts 1:8 and John 14:16-21 (Paul's instructions on the Spirit)
4. Do you want to experience the power of the presence of God? Are you willing to pay the price? What stands in your way?
5. What price do you foresee having to pay to experience the power of the presence of God in your life?
6. What specific commitments are you willing to do about making Jesus the King of your life as a result of these 7 weeks? How will you be accountable to these commitments?