



Group Questions | December 4 | Week 1

CONNECTION

It's officially the Christmas season. Do you all have any traditions you're looking forward to? What kind of traditions did you have as a kid? What are some of your favorite parts of this season?

So this week, we started a three-week series called The King, the Priest, and the Lamb. And we looked at the three gifts given to baby Jesus by the Magi. Do you remember what those three gifts were? And do you remember how they connect to our series title?

TENSION

This week we're focusing on Jesus as king. But before we talk about Jesus as king, let's look at Israel's history with kings.

Can someone read 1 Samuel 8:4-7?

What stands out to you in these verses? What was Israel's motivation for having a king?

It's important to notice that God's people (including us) often want God to work in very specific ways, ways that they think will benefit them. You see this not only in 1 Samuel but with Jesus and his followers in the Gospels.

Can someone read Matthew 16:21-23?

What similarities do you see between the Israelites in 1 Samuel 8 and Peter with Jesus in Matthew 16?

TRUTH

Can someone read Matthew 2:3-6? Can someone else read Micah 5:2-4?

What stands out to you about the kind of ruler the Messiah (Jesus) would be?

If Jesus was going to rule them as a shepherd, what would that look like compared to the kings of the world?

To flesh that out more, let's read Psalm 23:1-6.

What parts of these verses stand out to you the most?

APPLICATION

As we've seen, turning God/Jesus into something he wasn't intended to be can be tempting and easy. What can we do this season to stay focused on who Jesus is and the hope he's brought us?

How can we help others see and know this same hope that we have in Christ?

PRAY