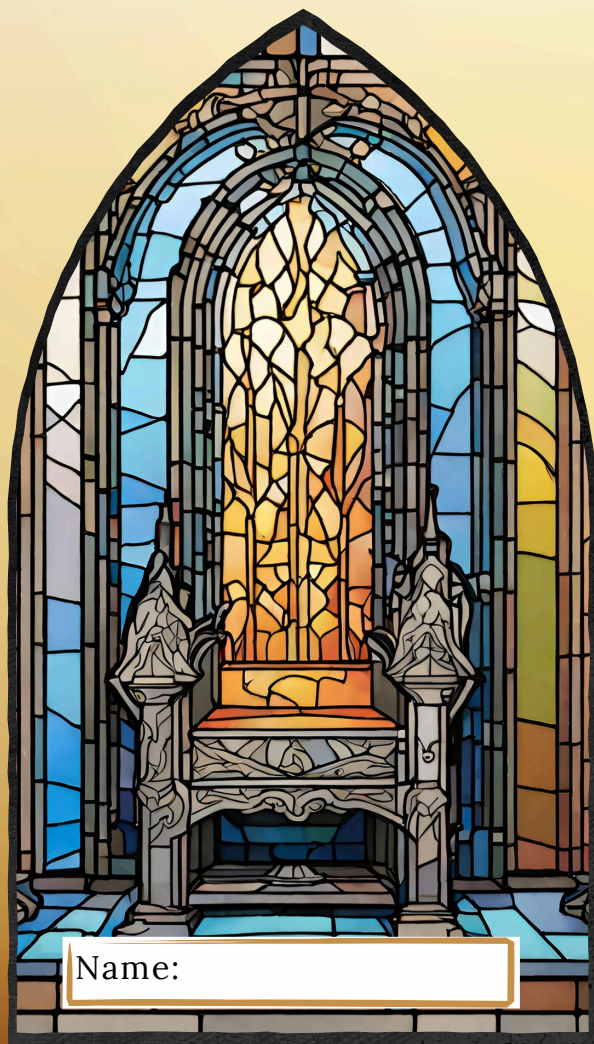


A KINGDOM'S RISE AND FALL



Series Guide 6

Use this guide for deeper discipleship
as we journey together through

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD

KINGDOM: WEEK 1



MEMORY VERSE: 1 SAMUEL 16:7b

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How do you feel when someone casts doubt on your ability to do something?

What motivated David to fight Goliath? (see 1 Samuel 16:25-27) What is at stake for the victor? For Israel?

Where did David get his confidence to face this battle? How did he convince Saul to let him fight?

What has God delivered you from and how has that given you courage when you face new challenges?

What giants are drawn up against you in battle? How are they taunting you? Is your attitude toward them more like Saul's or David's? How do you stand against them?

1 SAMUEL 17

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Spend this week focusing on sharing the “heart stuff” with your family. Don’t only talk about the things your family *does* well, like basketball or music, but talk about what beautiful things you see in your child’s heart. Maybe it’s a heart of generosity or a kind heart, a heart of joy, a heart of peace or patience. God looks not at outward appearances, but at the heart. When we fully give our hearts to Jesus

He will use us for His kingdom!

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 2



MEMORY VERSE: 1 SAMUEL 16:7b

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Famously, King David is referred to as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). How do we see David concerned with the things of God in 2 Samuel 7 & 8?

Despite having a concern for the things of God, David falls into temptation and commits adultery with Bathsheba. What does this tell us about the nature of sin and our relationship with God?

How does David’s sin of adultery lead him down the path toward other sins? Why do you think sin has a tendency to “compound” in our lives?

What role does Nathan play in David’s life? Why is it important to have our own “Nathans” around us?

Why is the birth of Solomon important to the story? What does his birth show us about how God handles our sin?

2 SAMUEL 12:1-14

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

David was a man after God’s own heart, yet he too was a sinner. David was quick to seek God’s guidance and quick to repent and ask for forgiveness when he sinned. How can your family practice repentance and forgiveness this week? Remember, our kids learn what they see modeled from others!

Younger kid
lesson video:



Older kid
lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 3



MEMORY VERSE: 1 SAMUEL 16:7b

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

A threshing floor was a place where sheaves were trampled so that the grain could be separated from the chaff. How does this place symbolize the judgment Israel was facing?

This threshing floor was the place where David built an altar of worship in response to God's mercy. Since David was the king, he could have commandeered the threshing floor. Why did he insist upon paying for it?

What does it mean for our worship (our offerings to God) to cost us something?

Araunah was willing to offer freely his land and possessions to David as a gift to the Lord. Are you willing to say to the Lord, "take whatever pleases you?"

David took all the blame for the plague that struck down his people. He was willing to take the weight of this calamity upon himself and his family. How does this remind you of God's heart and response toward sin?

Despite David's failures, the Lord accepted him and his sacrifice. How can we know that we are accepted by God, even when we fail? Consider what God sacrificed for us. What is our response to Christ's ultimate sacrifice?

2 SAMUEL 24:18-25

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

When we trust in our own strength, sin remains in us and grows. However, when we trust in God’s strength and the sacrifice of Jesus to cover our sins, we are set free from sin. Where in your lives as a family can you trust more of Jesus and less of your own human abilities?

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 4



MEMORY VERSE: 1 SAMUEL 16:7b

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

How would you describe what wisdom is? Are there people you know who demonstrate that well? In what area are you considered “wise”?

Why did Solomon want wisdom more than anything else? How does 1 Kings 3:16-28 show that God gives him wisdom?

For what quality is Solomon testing the women in verse 26? Why not test them for honesty?

Think about a tough decision you’ve faced. What prevailed: Your feelings? Others’ advice? Circumstances?

How can you pursue wisdom this week? What do you think it means that Jesus “has become for us wisdom from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30)?

1 KINGS 3:5-15

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “People look at the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

The Bible compares the value of physical training with the importance of spiritual training. It says physical training is of some value, but godliness has value now and forever. The Bible says that Jesus grew in physical stature and in wisdom, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). This means that God was pleased with Him and that other people also appreciated the way Jesus acted.

We can grow in wisdom too by spending time with wise people, reading the Bible, praying, and listening to God. Make a family bootcamp training plan. What consistent practices, or training, will your family do to grow in wisdom? Make a plan to grow in physical health too! Remember: When we ask God for wisdom, we are asking for more of God in our lives!

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 5



MEMORY VERSE: 1 KINGS 18:26-27

“Lord, the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, let it be known today that you are the God of Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me so people will know you are God.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

God’s presence is everywhere; the whole earth is the Lord’s. Yet God promises to be present to his people in unique ways and places, and his presence dwells in a special way in his house. Note that the word “sanctuary” means “holy place.” What does a church building, and specifically a sanctuary, communicate about the nature of God?

The different rooms in your home or apartment serve different functions. What are the different functions of the spaces or rooms in God’s temple? What does God seem to value most among these various places?

In John 2, Jesus refers to his body as “the Temple.” What did he mean by this? What does this claim by Jesus tell us about how to be in relationship with God? What are some pitfalls of trying to contain God in our buildings?

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul also says that when the church gathers together we are the “temple of God.” How is God present with us uniquely when we are gathered together? How does this passage correct the idea that I can “go to church alone” on a hike, a bike ride, or the golf course on a Sunday morning?

1 KINGS 9

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “You are God in Israel and I am your servant.” (1 Kings 18:36)

King Solomon built a beautiful temple for God and asked all the Israelites to trust Him with their hearts. Once Jesus came and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in all believers' hearts, we became His temple. Discuss with your family: what is God calling us to do with our lives?

Scan the QR code for this week's lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 6



MEMORY VERSE: 1 KINGS 18:26-27

“Lord, the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, let it be known today that you are the God of Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me so people will know you are God.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Kings 18:16-45. What does this passage tell us about God, the role of a prophet like Elijah, and the people? What can we learn about our own lives and specifically our life with God?

Why does Ahab think Elijah is the “troubler of Israel” (v.16)? How are the voices of those who call people back to God viewed today?

God’s people made alliances with neighboring nations for security and support. This led to a turning away from God’s desires. How have our efforts to find security and comfort ultimately led to a turning or bending away from God’s will?

What is a place where you might need to begin casting out the “Baals” of your life? (my bedroom, my kitchen, my office or workplace, my mind, my recreation room, etc.)

In what situation do you need to move courageously, putting your confidence in the Lord? What past actions of God would encourage you to trust him? How does the presence of the Holy Spirit help us do that?

1 KINGS 18

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “You are God in Israel and I am your servant.” (1 Kings 18:36)

Discuss with your family: Elijah was the only one on Team God. Have you ever felt alone in your faith? Why is a faith community so important in our lives? What people in your family’s lives encourage you in your faith?

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 7



MEMORY VERSE: 1 KINGS 18:26-27

“Lord, the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, let it be known today that you are the God of Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me so people will know you are God.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In 2 Kings 2, Elijah passes on the “mantle” of his ministry to Elisha before he is taken up into heaven. Why do you think God has Elijah pass on his authority and prophetic task? In what ways do we see Elisha take that responsibility up?

Initially, Naaman refuses to do what Elisha asks of him because of his pride. How has your own pride kept you from obeying God in the past?

Throughout the story of Naaman, God speaks to and through unexpected people. Why would including these people be considered scandalous to the Jewish people? What does their inclusion tell us about who is within or outside of God’s reach? How does the ministry of Jesus continue this theme?

2 KINGS 5

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “You are God in Israel and I am your servant.” (1 Kings 18:36)

Obedience to God often begins with humility. Is there an area in your lives where you need to humble yourselves in order to be more obedient to God and recognize His grace and plans for your life?

Scan the QR code for this week’s lesson video:



KINGDOM: WEEK 8



MEMORY VERSE: 1 KINGS 18:26-27

“Lord, the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, let it be known today that you are the God of Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me so people will know you are God.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

We see a pattern repeated in the story of God’s people throughout the Bible: 1. orientation – learning God’s ways, 2. disorientation – straying from God’s ways, 3. re-orientation – the call to repentance, faithful response for a time, then continued drifting away from God. Have you ever experienced this pattern in your life with God?

The people didn’t set out to rediscover the Book of the Law. They were simply seeking to be faithful to God. How did God meet them and show them something greater? How is the same true for us as God’s people?

The Bible has never been more accessible than it is in contemporary American society and much of the world (in print, online, via apps, etc.). Still, how does God’s Word need to be rediscovered today? What might be God calling you to do about that, for your life personally as well as together in community (your family and friends)?

In Revelation 2:4, Jesus tells the church in Ephesus, “You have forsaken your first love.” There were some good things that characterized that church, as we read in 2:2-4. In what ways have we lost, or are at risk of losing, our first love for Christ? When that is the case, what can help us recover that love and keep that love alive? How is this idea similar to the circumstances that Josiah and the people of God faced then?

2 KINGS 22

SERMON NOTES

FAMILY CORNER

MEMORY VERSE FOR YOUNG KIDS: “You are God in Israel and I am your servant.” (1 Kings 18:36)

Why is the Bible so important to people who love God?
How does it help us? What’s the difference between hearing versus obeying God’s word? What does it take to be obedient? How can your family make an intentional effort to know God’s Word and to trust His best plan for your lives?

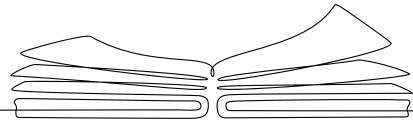
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GOD'S MAGNIFICENT WORD



Our purpose is to journey into Scripture, God's unified story leading to Jesus, who invites us into a new way of life and continues God's story in us through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.