

Christ The King Sunday

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Christ the King Sunday

Scripture: John 18:33-38

Memory Verse: John 18:37 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.'

The Children's Sermon

You'll need:

- Color pictures of each of the following items to show as you talk about each one
 - A king's crown a king's robes a scepter treasure/jewel chests
 - A crown of thorns a shepard's robe and sandals a cross a heart

Today is Christ the King Sunday! It is a special day in the church year, so today let's talk about kings.

You kids all know about kings, even though America got rid of her king about 200 years ago! So tell me about kings, what do king's wear?

That's right, they wear a crown and they wear royal robes.

They also carry something that represents their power and authority — do you know what that is called? It's called a scepter!

Kings also have LOTS of this stuff. Where do kings get all that treasure and jewels and gold? You're right again! From the people!

If all these pictures show what a king looks like, then we have a serious problem in church today, because this morning we are supposed to remember Jesus as Christ the King, and He certainly didn't look or act like the kind of kings we're used to!

We know Jesus didn't wear a gold and jeweled crown, he wore a different kind of crown, what was it? A crown of thorns! And Jesus didn't wear royal robes with white ermine down the front did He? He wore a simple robe and sandals.

And Jesus didn't carry a scepter to show His power, what did He carry? You're right again! He carried a Cross and he carried all our sins to that cross too.

Today, we're going to learn about how Jesus is a very special king. He's not like the kings in the storybooks or movies. He's much, much better. Jesus showed us that being a king isn't about having the most gold or the biggest castle. It's about loving and caring for others more than anything else.

When we think of a king, we might think of someone who sits on a big throne and tells everyone what to do. But Jesus, our King, didn't have a throne like that. Instead, He walked among the people, helping them, healing them, and teaching them how to love each other. That's what makes this Christ the King Sermon so important. It reminds us of the true meaning of being a king.

And Jesus didn't want boxes of jewels and diamonds and gold coins. No, what Jesus wants to gather to Himself is our hearts and our love. He showed us that the best

treasure is not something you can hold in your hands, but something you hold in your heart.

Jesus is a king, but a different kind of king than we're used to. He is the King of Heaven (where he promises to take us), the King of Love (which he offers to us freely), the King of Sacrifice, who takes all of our sins and the things we do wrong, and He wipes them away.

But how can we make Jesus the King of our hearts? It's simple, really. We can start by being kind to others, just like Jesus was. We can share our toys, help our friends, and be nice to our brothers and sisters. Every time we show love, we're letting Jesus be the King of our hearts.

We also learn that Jesus wants us to follow Him. Not because He wants to boss us around, but because He loves us and knows what's best for us. Following Jesus might mean doing things that are hard, like forgiving someone who hurt us or being patient when we really don't want to be. But when we follow Jesus, we're showing that He really is the King of our hearts.

So, let's remember that Jesus is a different kind of king. He's not looking for gold or land. He's looking for something much more valuable—our love and our hearts. And when we give Jesus our hearts, we're giving Him the best gift we possibly can.

Dear God, thank you for being the kind of King who doesn't want gold and power and treasure, but a King who wants our hearts and love. Thank you for being a King who wants to give everything that is good to his people, and to us, his little children. Thank

you for having Christ the King go to the cross for each one of us, to wash away our sins. And thank you for the home He is preparing for us in heaven. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

John 18:37 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.'

You Will Need:

- Crown making materials (construction paper, markers, stickers, glue, scissors)
- A 'Truth' banner (a large piece of fabric or paper and markers or paint)
- A recording of various sounds (animals, nature, vehicles, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Cut strips of construction paper long enough to go around a child's head and create a crown.
- Prepare the 'Truth' banner by writing 'Truth' in large letters, leaving space for children to add their own decorations.

Do This:

1. Begin by discussing the memory verse, focusing on the idea that Jesus came to bear witness to the truth and how we can listen to His voice today.
2. Have the children create their own crowns using the materials provided. Encourage them to think of themselves as seekers of truth, following the example of Jesus.
3. While they work on their crowns, play the recording of various sounds. After each sound, ask if it's true (real) or not true (fake). Discuss how sometimes it can be hard to

distinguish truth from falsehood, just as it can be challenging to always listen to Jesus' voice.

4. Once the crowns are finished, gather the children around the 'Truth' banner. Have them write or draw something true about Jesus or a truth they've learned from Him on the banner.

5. Conclude by reminding them that as followers of Jesus, they are called to listen to His voice and bear witness to the truth, just like Jesus did. Encourage them to wear their crowns for the rest of the class as a reminder of their commitment to truth.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A crown (can be made from paper or use a toy crown)
- Printable script of John 18:33-38 (one per child)
- Highlighters or colored pencils
- Costume robe or piece of fabric to serve as a robe
- A makeshift throne (can be a decorated chair)
- A "Truth" banner (can be made from paper or fabric)
- A small gavel or something to serve as a scepter

Get Ready:

- Print out copies of John 18:33-38, one for each child.
- Set up a "throne room" area in your classroom with the throne (chair), crown, robe, and scepter.
- Create or procure a "Truth" banner to hang or stand in the throne room area.

Do this:

1. **Introduction and Reading**: Begin by explaining the significance of Christ the King Sunday and introduce the scripture John 18:33-38. Distribute the printed scriptures to each child and read the passage together as a class. Encourage the children to use highlighters or colored pencils to mark phrases that stand out to them, especially focusing on the dialogue between Pilate and Jesus about kingship and truth.
2. **Role-Play**: Divide the children into small groups and assign roles: Jesus, Pilate, and narrators. Using the costume robe and crown, have the children act out the scripture passage in the throne room area. The child playing Jesus wears the robe (but not the crown, to reflect Jesus's response about His kingdom not being of this world), and the child playing Pilate can use the gavel or scepter. Encourage the children to focus on the part where Jesus talks about truth, emphasizing that His kingdom is based on the truth.
3. **Truth Banner Creation**: After the role-play, gather the children to discuss what Jesus meant by saying, "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Discuss what truth means in their lives and how they can be part of Jesus's kingdom by living in truth. Then, have each child write or draw something on the "Truth" banner that represents their commitment to living in truth as followers of Jesus. This could be a promise, a symbol, or a word. Hang the banner in your classroom as a reminder of their commitment.
4. **Reflection and Prayer**: Conclude the activity with a reflection on what it means to have Jesus as a king who rules in truth and how they can apply this in their daily lives. Lead the children in a prayer, asking for guidance to live by Jesus's example of truth and to have the courage to be truthful in all aspects of their lives.

Snack Activity: Crown of Truth Treats

You'll Need:

- Round cookies (like sugar cookies or any large, round cookie)
- Yellow icing
- Assorted candy jewels
- Pretzel sticks
- Small paper flags (to make or pre-bought)
- Markers

Get Ready: Prepare a clean workspace with all the materials laid out. If making paper flags, cut small paper rectangles that can be attached to pretzel sticks with tape or glue. Write 'King of the Jews' or 'Truth' on the flags to reflect Pilate's inquiry and Jesus' declaration of His kingdom not being of this world.

Do this:

1. Use the yellow icing to outline and fill a crown shape on the top half of each cookie. This represents the crown, symbolizing Jesus as King.
2. While the icing is still wet, decorate the crown with assorted candy jewels to make it colorful and royal.
3. Insert a pretzel stick on the side of the cookie to resemble a scepter. Attach a small paper flag to the top of the pretzel stick.
4. As the children create their Crown of Truth Treats, discuss John 18:33-38, focusing on Jesus as the king of a kingdom not of this world and what truth means in the context of faith. Encourage the children to think about how they can serve in Jesus' kingdom and live by His truth in their daily lives.

Game Activity: Kingdom Quest: Seekers of Truth

You'll Need:

- A large open space, preferably outdoors
- Several large poster boards or cardboard pieces
- Markers
- Sticky notes
- Tape

Get Ready: Before the game, write out key phrases from John 18:33-38 on the poster boards or cardboard pieces and scatter them around the play area. Phrases should include 'Are you the king of the Jews?', 'My kingdom is not of this world', and 'Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.' Prepare some sticky notes with 'Truth' and others with 'World' written on them.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into two teams: Truth Seekers and World Wanderers. Give Truth Seekers sticky notes marked 'Truth' and World Wanderers sticky notes marked 'World'.
2. The objective for the Truth Seekers is to find the posters with Jesus' quotes about His kingdom and truth, and tag them with 'Truth' sticky notes. World Wanderers aim to tag as many posters as possible with 'World' sticky notes before the Truth Seekers can claim them.
3. Once all posters are tagged, gather the children and discuss the significance of Jesus' words in the context of the game. Emphasize that Jesus' kingdom is different from the world's kingdoms, and how seeking truth is essential in following Him.

Craft Activity: Crown of Truth

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler
- Printable crown template

Get Ready: Print enough crown templates for each child. Cut strips of construction paper that will serve as the band of the crown, making sure they are long enough to wrap around a child's head.

Do this:

1. Have each child choose their favorite color of construction paper for the crown's band. They will measure and cut the strip to fit their head comfortably, and then staple the ends together to form a circle.
2. Children will then cut out the crown template and decorate it with markers or crayons. Encourage them to think about what 'truth' means to them and to Jesus as they decorate. They can write words like 'Truth', 'King', 'Jesus', or any other related words they can think of from the scripture John 18:33-38.
3. Once the crown is decorated, they will glue it to the front of the construction paper band. This creates their 'Crown of Truth'. Discuss how Jesus is the King of all kings, but His kingdom is not of this world. His truth is what guides us, and wearing our crowns can remind us to live by His truth every day.

Prayer Activity: King of Hearts: A Prayer for Understanding

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of John 18:33-38
- Crown cut-outs (one per child)
- Markers, crayons, and decorative items (stickers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready: Before the class, prepare a small area in your classroom as a 'throne room', where the children can come and present their prayers to Jesus, the King. Place a chair to represent the throne and decorate it with some fabric or paper to make it look royal.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 18:33-38 together as a class. Discuss what it means for Jesus to be a king, emphasizing that His kingdom is not of this world. Ask the children what they think it means to have Jesus as the King of their hearts.
2. Give each child a crown cut-out and ask them to decorate it while thinking about what they would like to ask or tell King Jesus in a prayer. Encourage them to write a prayer or a message to Jesus on their crown.
3. Once everyone has finished decorating their crowns, invite the children one by one to come to the 'throne room'. There, they can place their crown before the throne and say their prayer out loud or silently. Conclude the activity by affirming that Jesus hears all our prayers because He is the true King who loves and cares for us.