



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Lookin' for a Leader  
Fall Year 3, Lesson 22

# Invite Jesus to Be King of Your Heart

**Primary Scripture:** Ephesians 3:17

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 3:17(NIV), "...so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Children need a clear picture of what it means to follow Jesus as their Savior and Lord. One such image is that every person has a throne in his or her heart. On this throne is a ruler or king. The question then becomes "Who will sit on the throne of my heart? Who will be the king? Will it be Jesus, or me?" Kids need the opportunity to invite Jesus to be king of their heart. This invitation can be practiced daily as they seek to follow him.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus first gave his heart for us, dying on the cross so that he might be our Savior.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus rules in us as king of our hearts. He can direct our desires and decisions.

**Jesus through us:** As Jesus rules in our hearts, he works through us to advance his kingdom in the lives of others.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: a chair draped with a cloth to look like a throne, a crown that can be set in the chair, a cross that can be set inside the crown*

Bring the throne forward.

**Who can guess what this is? Right. It's a throne. On our throne is a crown that reminds me that whoever sits here is the king. A king is one who rules or is in charge of a kingdom.**

**Did you know that we can imagine there is a throne like this in each one of our hearts? On that throne only one person can sit. Who will it be? Will it be Jesus, or will it be ourselves?**

**Who do you want sitting on the throne of your heart? The Bible says that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. The Bible also says that we can worship him as Lord and King. When we do, we are reminded that Jesus wants to sit on the throne of our hearts rather than our own selfish selves.**

**Lets worship now and tell God how wonderful he is. Let's invite him to be king of our hearts.**

**Jesus, thank you for being here today. Thank you for letting us worship you. Thank you for giving your life for**

**us. Thank you for coming into our lives. We want you to sit on the thrones of our hearts. Because you are our King, we worship you today. Amen.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies needed: a paper crown set on the throne*

**Sometimes we want to be in control of our lives and we only think of what we want. Many times we want things that are good for us, but sometimes we may think selfishly. We may think, “I only care about me. I want to do what I want to do, even if it is wrong.” When we do that, it’s like taking Jesus off the throne of our lives and putting ourselves on the throne.**

Remove the cross and sit on the paper crown and crush it.

**The problem is that, when we follow our ways, things don’t go as well in our lives.**

**Let’s think of some of those things we might have done that have not honored Jesus as King of our lives. Let’s talk to him now and ask forgiveness. He will take them away and help us change.**

**Dear Jesus, thank you for wanting to be King, reigning in our hearts and lives. Sometimes we still like to follow our own selfish ways. This is like trying to push you off the throne and do what we want instead.**

**Right now we think of some of those things from last week. Maybe there were times of disrespect to others. Maybe we did things that showed we didn’t care for others’ feelings. Maybe we were mean or hurtful. Maybe we didn’t spend much time in prayer or reading our Bibles. Show each one of us what we have done to push you off the throne. We are sorry for it and never want to do it again.**

**But you forgive us because you gave your life for us. Thank you for being our Savior. Because you are our Savior, we want to follow you as our King. Stay on the thrones of our lives forever. In your name. Amen.**

Put the cross back on the throne

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Put the offering basket on the throne or have the crown in the basket. As the children give their offerings, remind them of this:

**We have never paid Jesus to be our King. He will be King simply because he loves us and gave his life for us. But if he is our King, we are happy to love and serve him. By giving him our money to be used for his kingdom, we are showing our love. God will use these gifts to help other people come to know him as King, as well.**



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Option 1: King of the Mountain

*Supplies: four to six traffic cones per team or some object to balance balls on top (This could be empty 2-liter bottles.); four to six foam-core balls or tennis balls with little red or blue paper crowns (these colors will signify the teams, either red or blue) attached to the balls that will sit on the traffic cones or bottles; an object for throwing, such as a foam Frisbee, bean bag or a beach ball per team; masking tape*

***Make sure the throwing object is not hard and might hurt someone. If you use bigger balls, the players could roll them.***

Divide the room into two sections with masking tape on the floor. One half is the Red Land and the other half is the Blue Land. Then continue with the following instructions.

**Welcome to a battle called King of the Mountain. We have two lands here—the Red Land and the Blue Land. Each team will be the “subjects” of the red kings or the blue kings. Each will have to stay behind the centerline. In both halves, we have mountains represented by these cones (*or bottles*). On top of them is a king (*a ball with a crown*). These are kings on the mountains. The object of the game is to knock the opposing team’s kings off their mountains!**

**The Red-Landers will try to knock off the kings of the Blue-Landers. Now to do that, they can throw the Frisbee (*bean bags or beach ball*) and see if they can knock the kings off their mountains. But if the Frisbee (*or other tossing item*) is caught, the person that was throwing the item must sit out to the side. However, if the person protecting his king is hit by the item (*Frisbee, bag, ball*), then that person must sit out to the side.**

**If one of the throwing items knocks one of the kings off a mountain, then that king cannot be placed back on “his throne” until the next**

round of the game. If someone backs into the mountain or knocks over his own king, the king cannot be placed back on the mountain. When all six kings of one team are knocked off their mountains, then the other team is the winner and the game is over.

Are we ready to see who will have the most kings staying on the mountains? Who is going to win—the Red-Landers or the Blue-Landers?

Begin the game.

After the game, discuss these teaching points:

**How can this sometimes be like our lives? Who wants to guess?**

**How can this be like the thrones in our hearts? Who wants to guess?**

**Sometimes there is a great war in our lives to see who will sit on our thrones. Sometimes we want to sit on the throne and we fight hard to keep anyone from knocking us off. But there is one person alone who needs to sit on the throne and be the King of our lives. Who is that?**

Tape a cross on one of the balls and place it on top of a mountain.

**This is who needs to be King of our lives—Jesus. We place him on the throne of our hearts when we invite him to be our Savior and follow him as our King.**

### **Option 2: Newspaper Tower Build**

*Supplies: two-inch stack of newspaper and masking tape for each group of five kids*

Give each group of five kids a two-inch stack of newspapers and two yards of masking tape. Challenge them to create a tower with their newspaper and masking tape. Whatever group creates the tallest tower wins.

**How is this like our lives? Sometimes we try to build tall towers out of our lives and they keep falling down. This may be like us trying to be the king of our own lives, building everything in our world just for ourselves. Instead, Jesus says that he wants to be King of our lives. He built a tower from heaven that reached to us. He built that tower by giving his life on the cross for us. He built his tower out of his love.**

## **Bible Reading:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Option 1: Storytelling—A Light on the Hill*

**“A Light On The Hill”**

**At school, Jeremy loved recess. His favorite game above all was King of the Mountain. A mound of dirt had been left on the playground from when workers were building nearby. Jeremy and his friends loved to play King of the Mountain there. The goal of the game was to stay on top of the mountain as long as possible without getting pushed off.**

**Jeremy was the best at the game. He was not only big but he was quick. When his friends would come to push him down, Jeremy could quickly dodge out of the way. His friends would lose their balance and go rolling down the hill.**

**One day all of the boys started to play before Jeremy arrived. Each boy pretended to be a superhero with super powers. One would charge up the hill and say, “Batman rules,” and attempt to push off the boy on the top. If this boy won, he would give a dance and scream, “Batman rules!” Before he could scream it a second time, he would be pushed by another boy yelling, “Superman rules!”**

**On the game went. Various superheroes would all have a short time of victory and ruling as king of the mountain.**

**Then Jeremy came to play. His friends were eager to see him, and Jeremy was ready to play. Along with Jeremy was his friend, David, who was the smallest boy in the class. He wasn’t very strong and he was made fun of so often that he was used to the mean comments he heard from the boys playing King of the Mountain.**

**“Come on, Jeremy! Come up and play! What superhero are you going to be?” his friends asked.**

**“Is Superman taken?” asked Jeremy.**

**“Yeah, I have Superman. Think of another one.”**

**“Okay,” said Jeremy, “but let David play, too.”**

**“Sure,” his friends said. “David can be Wimp Man.”**

**“Yeah. How ‘bout Geek Man?” another friend joked while all of the boys laughed.**

**“How about Fly Man?” said another. “One little thump and he’ll go flying away.”**

**Jeremy was saddened at the way the other boys teased David. David pretended like he didn’t mind. He just stuck his hands in his pockets and shrugged his shoulders.**

**“I don’t want to play a stupid King of the Mountain game anyway,” David said.**

**“That’s okay,” Jeremy said. “I know who rules this hill.” At that, Jeremy bolted up the hill. He was quick to knock off Superman. He dodged Batman. Spiderman lost his grip. All of the X-Men couldn’t budge Jeremy. All tried to move Jeremy off the top of the mound but they couldn’t. They just sat down in a pile to rest at the bottom of the hill.**

**“So, who rules?” the boys shouted up at Jeremy. “What hero are you?”**

**“I’ll tell you in a minute,” said Jeremy. “Hey, David. Come up here. Take a shot at me.”**

**The other boys snickered, “Yeah, sure. Wimp Man is going to take out Jeremy. That’s a laugh!”**

**David, however, did not hesitate. He charged up the hill with a big smile on his face and gave Jeremy a push. To everyone’s surprise, Jeremy fell backwards.**

**“Whoa!” Jeremy said. “David pushed me off! David rules!”**

**“What?!” his friends shrieked. “That’s not possible.”**

**“Sure, it is,” Jeremy said just as the recess bell was ringing. “David rules, and he’s the winner.”**

**As the boys were walking in together, David asked Jeremy, “You were up on top of that hill for a long time and you never said which superhero you were. Who were you?”**

**Jeremy thought to himself and then he put his fist in the air. He said, “The best super hero of all. Jesus rules!”**

Application Questions:

Read Ephesians 3:17,

***“Then Christ will live in you through faith. (NIV translation reads: “... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.) I also pray that love may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation.” (Gods Word version)***

**How did Jeremy show that Jesus ruled in his heart? How did he show God’s love—where his “roots” had “foundation?”** *(He had the ground of love on which he was standing.)*

**How did the fact that he fell backward show that he was really standing on love?** *(He fell backwards to help David be on top and show others he cared for David’s feelings. He was showing Jesus’ love to David.)*

**In what ways do you think you could show others that Jesus is dwelling in your heart?**

### **Option 2: The King of Hearts**

*(In “The Original King of Hearts” trick, three cards are shown to the audience, one of which is the king of hearts. The king of hearts card is pulled out and laid flat on the table while the presenter describes why the king of hearts is his favorite card. That is because the king reminds him of Jesus, who is the King of all kings and gave his life for us so that he could become King of our hearts. When the king of hearts is turned over, it shows the face of Jesus.*

*“The Original King of Hearts” is available through [www.gospelmagic.com](http://www.gospelmagic.com).)*

## **King of Hearts Gospel Illusion**



There are three playing cards involved in the “King of Hearts” gospel illusion – a six of diamonds, a nine of spades, and a card with Jesus’ picture (the King of Hearts). You will notice that the nine of spades has the corner of a king of hearts attached. (The following description shows photos from the perspective of the presenter, not the audience.)



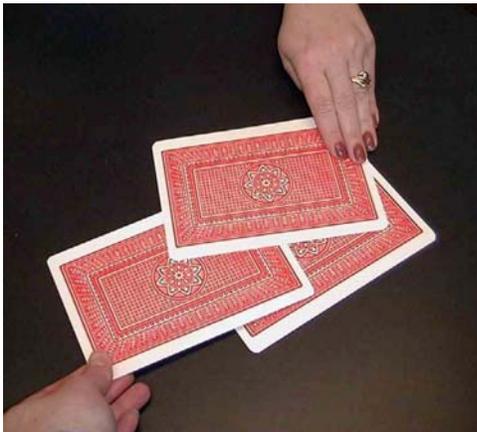
To load the trick, place the nine of spades on the bottom of the deck. Slide the Jesus card--King of Hearts under the flap of the king of hearts.

Next, place the six of diamonds on top of the deck. When the deck is fanned out, it will give the illusion of having a nine of spade, a king of hearts, and a six of diamonds.

**As you can see, I have three cards in my hand.**

Show the cards in a fanfold of three.

**Study these cards carefully and remember which cards they are.**

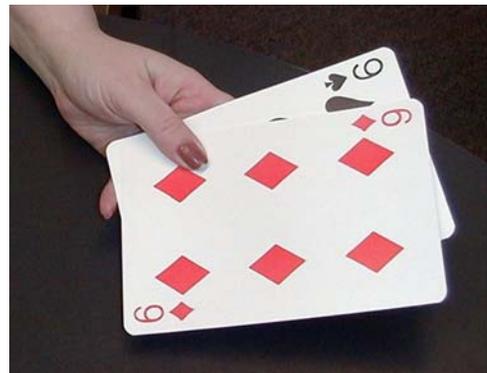


Lay the cards face down on the table. Ask a child if he can recall and names the various cards. He is then invited to pull out the king of hearts card directly off the table. He should not look at the card!

**Pull out the card you think is the King of Hearts. But don't look at it, leave it on the table.**

cards back to two. Show the audience that the child has picked the correct card, the middle card--the king of hearts.

**Kids, did he get the King of Hearts? I think so, as it's not one of these two cards. So this card on the table must be the King of Hearts.**



**Boys and girls, the king of hearts is my favorite card. Can you guess why? The king reminds me of the King of kings. The King over the whole universe is God's Son, Jesus. He came as a person to our world. Even though he was the King of kings, he gave his life for us on the cross. When he died for our sin, he made it**

possible for us to come into his kingdom and live with him forever. His death and then rising from the dead also made it possible for him to come into our lives and live with us. That is why he can be King of our hearts. Who is the King of our hearts? Let's just see. Will you show everyone the King of Hearts card?

Ask the child to hold up the card on the table. Everyone will see a picture of Jesus—the King of Hearts.

Show amazement and ask the child, “**How did you do that?**” Do not share the secret or repeat the illusion. Continue with the next activity.





# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids tell about a time they asked Jesus to be King of their heart. Or, tell about a time they helped someone else because Jesus was King of their heart and he wants us to help others.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chairs:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber and Power of the Cross:*

- a chair draped with a cloth to look like a throne
- a crown that can be set in the chair
- a cross that can be set inside the crown

## *Power of the Cross:*

- a paper crown

## *Offering:*

- crown from Attention Grabber

## *Learning Game*

### *Option 1: King of the Mountain*

- four to six traffic cones per side or some object to balance balls on top-- this could be empty 2-liter bottles
- masking tape
- little red and blue paper crowns to signify the teams—tape them to the balls that will sit on the traffic cones or bottles
- balls for each bottle or cone--the balls can be foam-core balls or tennis balls
- an object for throwing for both teams: this could be a Frisbee, bean bag or a beach ball

### *Option 2: Newspaper Tower Build*

- two inch stack of newspaper
- masking tape for each group of five kids

## *Bible Reading*

### *Option 1:*

- none needed

### *Option 2:*

- “The Original King of Hearts” card trick—can be purchased from [www.gospelmagic.com](http://www.gospelmagic.com)

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