

WEEK 3: THE PROMISED KING

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at marinerschurch.org/messages.

MAIN POINT

We are all looking for a king, someone to give ourselves to, someone or something to order our lives around. Sometimes we crown another person, sometimes a possession, sometimes a passion, sometimes ourselves. Like the kings in the past, these kings fail us. They can't hold the weight of the crowns we give them. They are unable to rule us with grace and truth, mercy and justice. But Christmas... Christmas is the news of the arrival of a different King. King Jesus, Lord at His birth. When His arrival was announced by the angel, we learned that His Kingdom will never end because He is the Promised One we have longed for. This King loves us, pursues us, invites us into His Kingdom, and suffers for us so we can be His.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

Think about some of the best leaders you know—personally or in the world. What are some defining characteristics of great leaders, in your mind?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Luke 1:26-33

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30 Then the angel told her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.”

How does Gabriel address Mary? What does he call her?

How does Mary respond to Gabriel showing up and talking to her?

What does Gabriel say about Jesus to Mary?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE IF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD

What kinds of people have we made “kings” or people of great influence and authority in our culture? Why do we give so much weight to these people and their influence?

In what ways do you see the values of Jesus’ kingdom at odds with the kingdoms of the world, where have you seen it?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

Where do you find yourself drawn to the kingdoms of this world?

How might you make Jesus King of your life in some real, tangible ways?