



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

1 Kings 1-11

Teaching material for 5-11's

A picture of God's kingdom



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The 'material' of Sunday school



The unfolding story of the Bible is revealed progressively through 66 books. These books were written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They were written with an agenda to a real audience. **Through these books, by His Spirit, God works.** He gives new life and discipled His people.

At Sunday school our desire is to teach through books of the Bible and allow our teaching to be directed by the Biblical author. We want to make the *main point* of our teaching the main point the author is teaching. We want the *aim* of our teaching to be the aim the author had. When we think about *how* we teach, we want to use the literary style, techniques, and content the Biblical author uses. In short, **we want to teach the Biblical author's point, for the Biblical author's purpose, using the Biblical author's practice.** The more clearly this is done, the more clearly the children will have heard the living God speak to them. As we strive to do this, we pray the fruit would be thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

The team at St Helen's has worked hard studying some key books of the Bible. As we have done so we have endeavoured to write our material following the principles above.

5-11's material

The 5-11's material is presented as example talks. An example talk has several functions.

Firstly, it is a talk. This talk could be given verbatim, adapted, used for ideas, or ignored by the individual assigned to give the talk. For less experienced leaders they may wish to read verbatim the example talk, adding in props and visuals. For more experienced leaders they may wish to chop, change, and adapt the example talk as they see fit. For very experienced leaders they may wish to ignore the example talk and write their own, only looking at the example to see another voice on the passage.

Secondly, it is a commentary on the passage. For those not giving the talk the example helps them to understand the passage, how it can be taught, and areas of application. It will also indicate what the speaker might say so that everyone can align their group time with this.

Additionally, there is space for working. Use this to help you prepare for your group discussion and activity.

Teaching program | 1 Kings 1-11

A picture of God's kingdom

Introduction to 1 Kings 1-11

Ever since the creation of the world, God has been working towards his kingdom. A place where his people live under his rule. Adam and Eve's rebellion threw this off course. But now, in the promised land, God's plan would be back on track. God promised King David that one of his sons would rule a wonderful and safe kingdom, the throne of which would be established forever. Let's take a look...

Memory verse

'I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.' 2 Samuel 7:12b

Teaching plan

Week/ Talk	Passage	Title	Big idea
1	2 Samuel 7:1-17	The promise	God promised King David a kingdom.
2	1 Kings 1-2	The king	God's kingdom is ruled by God's king.
3	1 Kings 3-4	Wisdom	God's kingdom is ruled with God's wisdom.
4	1 Kings 5-9	Forgiveness	God's kingdom is where God forgives.
5	1 Kings 10	Happiness	God's kingdom is wonderful.
6	1 Kings 11	Forever	God's kingdom is forever.



The promise

Big Idea | God promised David a kingdom.

Introduction

Over the next six sessions we're thinking about God's kingdom. There are three things that make up a kingdom. Can you guess what they are? A king, a people, and a place. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland covers England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland – that's the place. It has King Charles III as king. And he rules over the British people. But we're not looking at the United Kingdom, we're going to be looking at another kingdom, Israel. [Hang up a large picture frame which has a map of Israel, a picture of King Solomon, and a picture of some Israelites. This visual can be used throughout the series and either referred to or added to as we look at the kingdom under Solomon.] The place was the land of Israel. The king was King Solomon. And the people were the Israelites – God's people. We are going to hear about this kingdom from the Bible, in the Old Testament, from a book called 1 Kings. [Show where 1 Kings is in bible.]

But first, let me show you when the kingdom of Israel was in history. [Build a timeline of Biblical history around the picture frame of Israel, where the picture frame is at its centre. Use visuals of Creation, Abraham, Moses and Egypt, conquering the promised land, King David – who killed Goliath, the collapse of the kingdom, Jesus, us, God's forever kingdom.]

Point 1. Waiting for God's promised king.

The book of 1 Kings starts with King David when he was very, very old. Who can tell me something they know about King David? [Take answers] David was a king who loved and feared God. And God was with him. King David used to be a shepherd. He would take care of his sheep by bringing them to green pastures and by protecting them from ravenous wolves. God had chosen him to be a shepherd of his people. He became king in Israel. He protected his people from the Philistines. This included defeating Goliath. And he made the kingdom a safe place to live. He conquered Jerusalem and went to live there. He built a great palace out of stone and cedar. He built up the city around him. And he brought the ark of the covenant there, with singing and dancing, with shouts and the sound of trumpets. [Read 2 Samuel 5:12]

One night, God made a very special promise to David. Listen carefully to what God promised. [Read 2 Samuel 7:10-13] What did God promise? [Take answers]

- A place for his people.
- Rest from their enemies.
- One of David's sons would be king.
- His kingdom will be established.
- The throne of this kingdom would last forever.

What amazing promises! We're going to see that God kept these promises. One of David's sons would be king; his kingdom would be established; the kingdom would be a really wonderful and safe kingdom; and there would forever be a king on the throne.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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Point 2.

God's kingdom will be ruled by King Jesus.

When King David had died, his son Solomon became king over Israel. He ruled over a really wonderful and safe kingdom. But you may have noticed from our timeline that his rule didn't last and the kingdom was almost completely destroyed. But, 950 years after Solomon, there came another king, King Davids Great (x26) Grandson, Jesus. Jesus was going to be the king over the really wonderful and safe forever kingdom. When Jesus died, rose, and ascended into heaven, God crowned him as king. Jesus is the king God promised David. Jesus has been king for the last 2000 years. And he will continue to be king for the next 2000 years, and 2000 years after that, and 2000 years after that, for ever and ever. Can someone remind me what else we need for a kingdom? [\[Take answers\]](#)

People: When Jesus ascended into heaven his disciples took Jesus to be their king. They became the people of God's kingdom. And they went on to tell others of King Jesus, who then also became people of the kingdom. And they told others, and guess what? They too became people of the kingdom. And they told others, who told others, who told others, who told your parents and Sunday school leaders, who tell you. If we have heard about King Jesus, and take him to be our king, then we also become people of the kingdom. God's kingdom fills with people every day, like a tap filling up a bath.

Place: God's kingdom doesn't have a place on this earth. His kingdom is the kingdom of heaven. God's people go to be with Jesus when they die. Then in the future, God will create the new heavens and earth where they will live. There will be nothing broken or bad in it. It will be a wonderful place. It will be a safe place. This will be the place of the kingdom.

Conclusion

This term we're thinking about God's promised kingdom. And we're going to look at David's first son Solomon and his kingdom, because this will give us a picture of King Jesus and his kingdom. Looking at the kingdom under Solomon will give us an idea of what Jesus' forever kingdom is like. So that as we look at the picture, we can get excited, and understand more, about the real thing.

Let's thank God for promising an amazing kingdom.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


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Materials:

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you _____

 **C.** God, I am sorry _____

 **T.** God, I thank you _____

 **S.** God, I ask you _____

Activity: _____

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

Materials

The king

Big Idea | God's kingdom is ruled by God's king.

[This story from 1 Kings is a straightforward and fun one to have children dress up and act out the different parts.]

Introduction

Today we're thinking about who will rule God's kingdom.

Point 1. Problem: the wrong king

King David was getting very old. He had ruled the kingdom for 40 years. And it was time for one of his sons to take over. David had chosen Solomon. But one of his other sons, Adonijah, thought he knew better. Adonijah thought, 'I will be King!' So he prepared for himself a chariot, found some important officials to support him, and threw a massive party to celebrate. At the party they chanted, 'Long live King Adonijah, long live King Adonijah, long live King Adonijah!' Adonijah had invited all his brothers, except one, Solomon.

Point 2. Solution: God makes Solomon king

When David heard what Adonijah had done, he called Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet. He said to them [\[Read 1:33-34\]](#) So they put Solomon on the king's mule and took him to Gihon; where Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed him king over Israel. Then they blew a trumpet and all the people cried out, (and we can all say this together) '[Long live King Solomon, long live King Solomon, long live King Solomon!](#)' After this they had a huge party. It was so loud the ground shook with the sound! God's kingdom would be ruled by God's chosen king.

When they heard that Solomon had been made king, the guests at Adonijah's party ran away terrified. Adonijah also realised he wasn't God's chosen king. He said [\[Read 2:15\]](#). Adonijah had not listened to God and had made himself king. In the end Solomon put him to death. And Solomon's rule was firmly established. God's kingdom would be ruled by God's king.

Conclusion

What happened back then is a picture for us of God's forever kingdom. [\[Hang up the picture frame from last week.\]](#) God will put *his* king on the throne, no matter what. God's forever kingdom will be ruled by his chosen king, King Jesus. God has made Jesus king. God has not made any of us the king of his kingdom. God has not made any of the kings and rulers of this world to be the king of his kingdom. God's kingdom is ruled by God's king, Jesus.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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Let's do some call and response. When I say, 'God's kingdom is ruled by God's king'. You respond by chanting, 'Long live King Jesus, long live King Jesus, long live King Jesus!' [Practice a few times.]

- So what will happen to those who set themselves up to be king? They will be destroyed like Adonijah. Because God's kingdom is ruled by God's king. [Children respond.]
- What will happen to those who follow the wrong king? They will end up running away in great fear, like Adonijah's party guests. Because God's kingdom is ruled by God's king. [Children respond.]
- What will happen to those who acknowledge, and in their hearts bow down and follow God's king? They will be safe and happy. Because God's kingdom is ruled by God's king. [Children respond.]

Let's praise God for putting his king on the throne of his kingdom.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


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Materials:

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you _____

 **C.** God, I am sorry _____

 **T.** God, I thank you _____

 **S.** God, I ask you _____

Activity: _____

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

Materials

Wisdom

Big Idea | God's kingdom is ruled with God's wisdom.

[Have the picture frame of the kingdom under Solomon already hung up ready to be added to and referred to.]

Introduction

If you were the king of a kingdom, what would you need to rule your kingdom? [\[Take answers\]](#)

Point 1. Solomon asks for wisdom.

One night God appeared to King Solomon in a dream. God said to Solomon, 'ask for whatever you want me to give to you.' And Solomon answered, 'Give your servant wisdom to govern your people, that I may tell between what is good and what is evil.' Solomon could have asked for anything: a new computer, big brains, or for everyone to like him. But he asked for wisdom. He knew it'd be hard to rule God's people. How would he do what is good? How would he know what is best? How would he decide what is right? He needed wisdom. Wisdom would help him know what's good and what's bad, what's right and what's wrong, what's best and what's not. So he asks for wisdom. And that's exactly what God gave him.

Let me tell you a story that shows us how wise Solomon was.

One day two women came to King Solomon. One of them said, "This woman and I live together in the same house, and both of us have had a baby. During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night, while I slept, and took my son from my side and put her dead son next to me. The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne." The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other." The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother." When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

God's kingdom was ruled by Solomon, the very wise king. He found a way to work out who's son the baby really was. And was able to give it back to its mother.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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Point 2.

Wise king = wonderful kingdom.

We might not think that a wise king is important to have, so let me show you.

Try to remember the best birthday party you've had. Remember the friends who came. Remember the fun activities you did. Remember the cake you ate. I imagine you didn't organise your party. I imagine your parents organised it. And because they were wise, they got you to send out invitations early so that everyone could make it. Because they were wise, they planned the activity, which was lots of fun. Because they were wise, they made enough cake for everyone to have a slice. Your party was a great party. You ate and drank and played and laughed and were happy, all because your mum and dad did what was good and right and best. They were wise. And imagine if they hadn't been wise. No friends! No activities! No cake!

Wisdom is important. If those in charge are wise, then things go well. If those in charge are unwise, then things go badly. Solomon was wise and so the kingdom of Israel was a wonderful place to live. The people ate and drank and played and laughed and were happy. God's kingdom was a wonderful place to live because wise kings lead to wonderful kingdoms. And we'll hear more about how wonderful the kingdom under Solomon was in a few weeks' time.

Conclusion

Wise King Solomon is a picture of Jesus. King Jesus is our wise king. Because he is God, he has all of God's wisdom. Jesus is the wisest of kings. He will rule God's kingdom with wisdom. He knows what is good and right and best. And because of his wisdom, the kingdom will be the most wonderful place to live. It will be like a never-ending party. People will eat and drink and play and laugh and be happy. All because Jesus is a wise king. And we can look forward to living in the kingdom.

Let's thank God that Jesus is a wise king who rules the wonderful kingdom.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


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Materials:

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 **T.** God, I thank you _____

 **S.** God, I ask you _____

Activity: _____

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

Materials

Forgiveness

Big Idea | God's kingdom is where God forgives.

[Have the picture frame of the kingdom under Solomon already hung up ready to be added to and referred to.]

Introduction

God's kingdom was a great place to live: God's people were in God's place. God's people were safe from their enemies. God's chosen king, King Solomon, was ruling over them. God's king, Solomon, ruled wisely with God's wisdom. God's people lived wonderful lives. They ate and drank and were happy. God's kingdom was a great place to live. But if the people sinned, would it all come crashing down?

Let me tell you a story about a boy called George. George went on holiday to the seaside. At the seaside he stayed at his friend's holiday home. It was a big house with many rooms, a big garden, and a view out to sea. In the mornings George would run onto the beach to build sandcastles. In the afternoons he would have a BBQ and play in the garden. The holiday home was a great place to be. But sometimes George messed up. Sometimes George would jump up and down so much on his bed that it would break. Sometimes George would boot his football at the flowers and they would die. On holiday George would sometimes mess up. I can't imagine that his friend would let him stay there anymore. No more sandcastles. No more BBQ's. No more holiday. But for George, that wasn't the end. He would get out his phone. Find his friend's name in the address book. Give him a call. And say, 'sorry'. It's a good thing George's friend was the forgiving type, 'I forgive you' was the reply. George didn't have to leave. He could keep on holidaying at his friend's house. And whenever George messed up, he could call his friend and say, 'sorry'.

God's kingdom was a great place to live, but if his people sinned, would God let them stay there anymore? This week we'll see that he will, because of a special building where they could say sorry.

Point 1. Solomon builds the temple.

God had promised King David that his son Solomon would build a house for his name. God wanted somewhere where his glory would dwell and where his name would be known. Somewhere more permanent than the tabernacle. God said Solomon would build for him a temple. And that's exactly what Solomon did. Solomon gathered wood and bronze and silver and gold and stone. He got labourers and craftsmen. And he went to work. It took Solomon seven years to build the temple. And once it was done, it was magnificent. A great big building of stone. [In addition to a big visual/picture of the temple to show the children, add a small picture of the temple to the picture frame.] The inside, covered in gold. Solomon then gathered all the heads of the tribes of Israel. He brought the ark of the covenant from the tabernacle, and he put it in the temple. And a cloud filled the temple – this was the glory of God. There was a big party

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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to celebrate. And lots of animal sacrifices. At the opening celebration Solomon prayed a big prayer. His prayer helps us understand what the temple was for and why it was so good.

Point 2. God forgives at the temple.

Have a listen to some of what he prayed. [Read 8:29-30] At the temple God listens. And at the temple God forgives. The temple is like a big gold telephone box. When the people mess up, when they sin against God, they can come to the temple and say sorry. And when they say sorry, God will hear them, and God will forgive them. And they can stay and live happily ever after in his kingdom. (It's a bit like what happened to George when he messed up.) Solomon built the temple, the big gold telephone box, so that the people could say sorry to God and continue to live in his kingdom.

Conclusion

But if you were to hop on a plane, fly to Israel, and go to Jerusalem, you might notice that there's no temple there anymore. The big gold telephone box has vanished! Well it didn't actually vanish. A very long time ago it was destroyed. And all that's left now is its floor. So how can we be forgiven and be a part of God's kingdom forever? The temple was a picture for us. It was a picture of Jesus. Jesus came to earth, like the cloud of God's glory that came and filled the temple. And Jesus gave each of us his Spirit. With the Spirit of God in us we can talk to God anytime, anywhere. It's like a mobile phone that you can use anytime, anywhere. Which means that we don't need the big gold telephone box anymore. And when we talk to God we can say 'sorry' and ask for forgiveness in Jesus' name. And when we say sorry to God, he forgives us, and we can be in his kingdom forever.

Let's thank God that he forgives our sins so that we can live in his kingdom forever.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


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Materials:

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 **T.** God, I thank you _____

 **S.** God, I ask you _____

Activity: _____

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

Materials

Happiness

Big Idea | God's kingdom is wonderful.

[Have the picture frame of the kingdom under Solomon already hung up ready to be added to and referred to.]

Introduction

Here are some things that make somewhere a great place to live: Good weather. Friendly people. Tasty food. Beautiful scenery. Big houses to live in. Lots of fun things to do. Where in the world would you want to live? [Ask the children and ask them what makes that place a great place to live.]

They all sound like amazing places. Today we're going to hear about the kingdom under Solomon and what made it a wonderful place to live.

Point 1. The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

King Solomon had a visitor – the Queen of Sheba. [A volunteer could dress up as the Queen of Sheba.] The Queen of Sheba had heard lots about King Solomon and his great wisdom and wonderful kingdom. She just had to go and see for herself! So she packed up her camel's with spices and gold, and precious stones, and left Sheba for Jerusalem. When she got there, she met King Solomon, who answered all her questions and showed her his kingdom. [Read 10:4-5] The Queen of Sheba had been blown away by how wonderful the kingdom was. [Read 10:6-9]

The Queen of Sheba was blown away by how wise Solomon was, how amazing his kingdom was, and how happy his people were. She saw that Solomon was the wisest of all kings. He always did what was good and right and best. And could answer of her difficult questions. And because of this the kingdom was prosperous and wealthy. [Add pictures of wealth and prosperity to the picture frame.] Solomon had so much Gold, almost more than he knew what to do with – so much that he started making shields out of gold. Imagine having so much gold that you started making stuff out of it! Your cutlery made of gold, shoes made of gold, maybe even a car made of gold. Solomon was no.1 on the world's rich list. Everyone in the kingdom was rich. They were able to buy all they needed: more than enough food, clothing, books, and toys.

And the Queen of Sheba saw how happy the people were. [Add smiley faces/happy people to the picture frame.] Everyone in the kingdom was happy. From the most important official to the least important servant. Everyone had a smile on their face. They were happy because they lived in God's kingdom, under God's king, who had God's wisdom, who built God's temple, and who provided for all their needs. The people were happy.

Wow, what an amazing place it must have been to live. Better than... [mention the places the children had wanted to live in at the start of the talk.] Living there would have been amazing. It's the closest mankind has got to what God wanted when he made the world – when he made it

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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very good, before Adam and Eve rebelled against him.

Conclusion

Remember that the kingdom under Solomon is a picture for us. It's a picture of how amazing, and wonderful, and fabulous, and great, and brilliant, and perfect God's kingdom will be under Jesus. In God's kingdom there will be a wise king, King Jesus, who rules even better than Solomon did. He will make only good and right and best decisions. In God's kingdom there will be lots of riches. Everyone will have all that they need and even more. And in God's kingdom there will be happiness. No more crying and sadness and pain, just everlasting happiness; people grinning from ear to ear, the sound of laughter everywhere. In God's kingdom we will be happier than we could ever imagine, and we will have more than we will ever need.

Let's thank God that his kingdom will be wonderful.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


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Materials:

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Activity: _____

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Materials

Forever

Big Idea | God's kingdom is forever.

[Have the picture frame of the kingdom under Solomon already hung up ready to be added to and referred to.]

Introduction

Birthday parties are brilliant aren't they, presents, cake, parties, more cake, they're brilliant. Christmas is good too isn't it, Presents, mince pies, carols, more mince pies, Christmas is really good. How about school holidays, going away on holiday, seeing friends, playing games, seeing more friends, school holidays are awesome.

Birthday parties, Christmas, and school holidays are all super. But do you know what the worst thing about them all is? The worst thing about them all is that they come to an end. Before you know it, the presents are all opened, the cake and mince pies are finished, your school uniform is back out again, they don't last forever.

We have spent the last 5 sessions looking at God's kingdom under the reign of God's king, Solomon. It's been a great time for the people of Israel, the best time anyone has ever had since the garden of Eden. The people are safe, rich, and happy under wise King Solomon – God's king. They're living in God's place and can go to the temple to know him and talk to him. It's been awesome! But sadly, it doesn't last. Listen to what happens, listen to what goes wrong.

Point 1. Solomon's fall.

Solomon was a great king, a really great king, the wisest king that Israel, God's people, ever had. But you see, the thing with Solomon was, although he was the wisest king ever to have ruled Israel, he still wasn't perfect, he still made mistakes, like everyone else he still disobeyed God. This is what Solomon did.

In God's law it was written that the people of Israel shouldn't marry people from other nations, they were not supposed to marry foreigners, people who were not Israelites. God's people were not to marry them because God said that if they did, these foreign women would turn their hearts away from him and make them serve other Gods.

But you see, Solomon thought he knew better than God. And Solomon married a foreign woman. In fact, not just one, or two, or three, but 700! These foreign women worshipped false Gods. God had said that foreign women would turn someone's heart away from God and make them serve other Gods, and do you know what happened. Solomon's heart turned away from God and he started serving other god's. He may have been the wisest king, but he had disobeyed God and worshiped the gods of his wives.

Well, as you can probably guess, God wasn't happy. God had given Solomon a wonderful

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

Visuals and props

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kingdom to rule over, everything he had asked for and more, and yet Solomon still turned away from God.

This is what it says in 1 Kings chapter 11. [\[Read 1 Kings 11:9-11\]](#)

God was angry with Solomon. As a punishment he tore the kingdom away from Solomon. And then the kingdom was divided in two. And then it was crushed by foreign armies. The wonderful kingdom was almost completely destroyed. It had all but come to an end. The good things that had made the kingdom so wonderful were going to stop. No more happiness. No more riches. No more safety.

Point 2. The kingdom under Jesus.

But what about the promise God made to David. We looked at it at the start of this term. Do you remember what God had promised to David? [\[Take answers\]](#) God promised that David's son would establish a kingdom that would last forever, and that it would always be ruled by one of his descendants. Because of Solomon's mess up, Solomon could no longer be the king, and the wonderful kingdom was almost completely destroyed. But, 950 years later, David's great (x26) grandson, Jesus, was born. Jesus rules God's kingdom: He is God's chosen king. He has all of God's wisdom (because he is God). He himself is a better temple because through him we can know God and find forgiveness of our sins. When he returns and takes us to the new creation it will be a place of great happiness, riches, and safety. It'll be way better than a birthday party, way better than Christmas, way better than the school holidays, way better even than the kingdom under Solomon.

And the best thing is that it will last forever. Jesus is the perfect king. So he won't make a silly mistake like Solomon did. His heart won't turn away. And therefore the kingdom will not be torn from him like it was from Solomon. It will not be destroyed. And because Jesus lives forever, he will be on the throne forever, and his kingdom will never end. The kingdom will go on and on and on and on, forever, and ever, and ever, and ever, into eternity. Like a never-ending birthday party. Or a forever Christmas. Or an everlasting summer holiday. And if we are trusting in King Jesus then we are the people of his kingdom, and we can look forward to being with him in his wonderful kingdom forever. We will laugh forever and ever. We will enjoy all the good things God gives forever and ever. We will be safe and secure forever and ever. All because Jesus is God's king.

Let's thank God that we have a wonderful kingdom we'll go to.

Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: _____


1


2

3


Materials:

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you _____

 **C.** God, I am sorry _____

 **T.** God, I thank you _____

 **S.** God, I ask you _____

Activity: _____

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

Materials



St Helen's
Bishopsgate



St Helen's Children's Ministry

