



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

1 Kings 1-11

Teaching material for 3-5's

God's kingdom



This Sunday school material has been produced by the St
Helen's children's ministry team.
All rights reserved.

St Helen's children's ministry 2024.

All Bible references are from the
Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV®
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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 disciples 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.

3-5's material

The 3-5's material is presented as a skeleton of the session with the example Bible story.

Some parts of the session are provided, and some will need to be prepared. Ie. the Concept, Bible verse, and Action Rhyme are provided. But the concept explanation, Bible verse explanation, game and ACTS prayer will need to be prepared by the leader. Use the space in the material to do this.

The example Bible story has several functions.

Firstly, it is a short 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 is aligned on the teaching.

Teaching program | 1 Kings 1-11

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...

Action rhyme

(To the tune, 'The wheels on the bus'.)

*Lesson 1 God's kingdom is ruled by God's king,
By God's king,
By God's king,
God's kingdom is ruled by God's king, God's king is very wise.*

*Lesson 2 God's kingdom is where God lives,
Where God lives,
Where God lives,
God's kingdom is where God lives, and we will live with him.*

*Lesson 3 God's kingdom is the very best,
Very best,
Very best,
God's kingdom's the very best, I can't wait to be there.*

Teaching plan

Week	Lesson	Passage	Story	Concept
1 2	1	Ch. 1-4	The wise king	God's kingdom is ruled by God's wise king.
3 4	2	Ch. 5-9	Where God lives	God's kingdom is where God lives.
5 6	3	Ch. 10	The best kingdom	God's kingdom is the best.



The wise king



Concept | **God's kingdom is ruled by God's wise king.**

Bible time 1

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Welcome

Order of the session: Bible time, game, Bible time, craft.

Sunday School rules: Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

Pray: Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

Concept

🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

Concept: God's kingdom is ruled by God's wise king.

Concept explanation

Bible verse

🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

- Visuals and props:**
- -
 -
 -
 -

Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

Read Bible verse: 1 Kings 4:29

Bible verse explanation

Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'The wheels on the bus'.)

*God's kingdom is ruled by God's king,
By God's king,
By God's king,
God's kingdom is ruled by God's king, God's king is very wise.*

🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God.
And now it's time for a game.'*

Game

Bible time 2

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Story

The wise king

We're going to learn about God's kingdom. To have a kingdom you need three things. [Have visuals for the following.] 1) A king to rule over the kingdom, to be in charge, to tell people what to do. 2) A place for the king to rule over, including towns and cities and villages and rivers and fields. 3) A people to live in the kingdom.

A long time ago, before Jesus came to earth, God's people had a king called Solomon. Solomon was king, he was in charge, he told people what to do. Solomon was king over a big place called Israel, Israel had lots of towns and cities and villages, and rivers and fields too. Lots of people lived in Solomon's kingdom, they were God's people, they were called the Israelites.

Today we are going to learn more about King Solomon. Every time I say King Solomon, I want you to pretend to put a crown on your head [practice it once or twice].

The first thing we are going to learn about King Solomon [action] is that God made Solomon king. Solomon was made king by God. Solomon didn't choose to be king, Solomon didn't pay lots of money to be king. Solomon didn't fight lots of people to be king. Solomon didn't pass a big test to become king. There were other people who wanted to be king, these other people tried to make themselves king, but God stopped them. God wanted Solomon to be king, so God made Solomon king. He was just Solomon, but God made him King Solomon [action] over his people the Israelites, in the land of Israel.

The second thing we are going to learn about King Solomon [action] is that God made King Solomon [action] very wise. After God had made Solomon king, God said to Solomon that he would give him whatever he asked. He could ask for anything; he could have asked for lots of fast cars or lots of big houses or lots of lovely food, but he didn't. Instead, King Solomon asked God to make him wise. Solomon wanted to be wise so that he would be a good king, that he would be good at being in charge and tell people the right things to do. God thought that wisdom was a very good thing to ask for, so God made Solomon very wise.

Solomon was the wisest king that God's people in the Old Testament ever had. Solomon was the best at being in charge, he was really good at telling people what to do and telling people what was right and wrong, Solomon was the wisest and best king in the Old Testament because God had made him king and made him wise.

But King Solomon [action] is not the wisest and best king who has ever lived. There is one king who came a long time after Solomon. This king was even greater than Solomon, this king was even wiser and even better at being king than wise King

Solomon. This king's name is Jesus. King Jesus is a bit like King Solomon [action]. God made Solomon king and God made Jesus king too. Solomon was a really wise king and Jesus is even wiser. Solomon was good at being king, but Jesus is even better at being king. Jesus is God's king; he rules over God's kingdom.

Jesus is still king today, he is still a very wise king, very good at ruling, it's great that Jesus is king.

Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

💕 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.
Wow God/ We praise you God... _____

💔 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.
Sorry God... _____

😊 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.
Thank you God... _____

🙏 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.
Please God... _____

🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God,
And now it's time for craft.'*

Craft

Craft ideas...

Week 1: Colour in people, fields, and buildings, to make up a kingdom story board.

Week 2: Make a crown.

Where God lives



Concept | **God's kingdom is where God lives.**

Bible time 1

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Welcome

Order of the session: Bible time, game, Bible time, craft.

Sunday School rules: Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

Pray: Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

Concept

🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

Concept: God's kingdom is where God lives.

Concept explanation

Bible verse

🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

Visuals and props:

-
-
-
-
-

Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

Read Bible verse: 1 Kings 8:1

Bible verse explanation

Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'The wheels on the bus'.)

*God's kingdom is where God lives,
Where God lives,
Where God lives,
God's kingdom is where God lives, and we will live with him.*

🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God.
And now it's time for a game.'*

Game

Bible time 2

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Story

Where God lives

We're learning about God's kingdom. A kingdom needs three things, can you remember what they are? [\[ask the children\]](#)

We've learnt about the king, King Solomon. God made Solomon king and made him very wise. We've also learnt about King Jesus. King Jesus is an even wiser and greater king than Solomon. Today we are going to learn about a very special building that King Solomon built, a building that he built right in the middle of his kingdom. This building was a house, a very special house, for someone very special to live in. Solomon built this very special house for God to live in. God's house was very special because it was a temple.

Before Solomon built the temple God had lived in a tent called the tabernacle, the tent was made of wood and material, it could easily be moved a bit like a tent you would take on holiday. Now God was going to live in a house, a temple made of stone and precious metal.

King Solomon started building the temple according to God's special plans. He got lots of timber. He got lots of stone. He got lots of gold. And he hired lots of people to work on it. The temple was huge. And in the most special part everything was covered with gold. The walls were covered in gold, the ceiling was covered in gold, the floor was covered in gold, even lots of the furniture and special statues were covered in gold. God's house, God's temple, was very special. It showed just how special and important God was.

When King Solomon had finished building the temple, he and the people had a big party to celebrate. In the middle of the party something really strange happened; a big dark cloud came and filled the inside of the temple. What was going on, why was there a big dark cloud in the temple, was it going to rain? No, the cloud was God's special way of coming to live with his people. God had lived with his people in the tent in just the same way, a big dark cloud had filled the tent and now it was filling the temple. God was coming to live in his house.


This was really great news for King Solomon and the people of Israel. God had come to live with them, in the middle of the kingdom. Having God come and live with them was great. The people could come and talk to God. They could pray to him ask God to forgive them.

We don't have a temple anymore; Solomon's temple was burnt down and destroyed thousands of years ago. Does that mean God does not live with us anymore, does that mean we can't talk to God anymore, does that mean we can't be forgiven anymore?


No, wonderfully we have something better than the temple, better than a building with lots of gold. We have Jesus. Jesus is God and Jesus came to live with his people. You might not see Jesus walking around anymore though. That's because he's in heaven. One day we will be with him and live with him in his kingdom. For now, Jesus sent us his spirit who lives inside of us. Did you know that God lives inside of you. Because God lives inside of you, you can talk to wherever you might be. You can talk to him at church, at home, in the park, anywhere. And if we ask for forgiveness, he will hear us and forgive us, and we can look forward to living with God in his forever kingdom.

Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.


Wow God/ We praise you God... _____

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.

Sorry God... _____

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.

Thank you God... _____

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.

Please God... _____

 **Closing song**

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God,
And now it's time for craft.'*

Craft

Craft ideas...

Week 1: Stick gold tissue paper on a picture of the temple and add to story board.

Week 2: Colour in a picture of a mobile phone.

The best kingdom



Concept | **God's kingdom is the best.**

Bible time 1

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Welcome

Order of the session: Bible time, game, Bible time, craft.

Sunday School rules: Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

Pray: Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

Concept

🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

Concept: God's kingdom is the best.

Concept explanation

Bible verse

🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

Visuals and props:

-
-
-
-
-

Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

Read Bible verse: 1 Kings 10:8

Bible verse explanation

Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'The wheels on the bus'.)

*God's kingdom is ruled by God's king,
By God's king,
By God's king,
God's kingdom is ruled by God's king, God's king is very wise.*

🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God.
And now it's time for a game.'*

Game

Bible time 2

🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.
Let's gather together to hear from God,
Come gather here with me.'*

Story

The best kingdom

If someone told you that they had found the best ice cream place in London, you would probably want to go there and try the ice cream. If someone told you about the best swimming pool in London with the best water slides, you would probably want to go there and try them out. If you heard that someone had been to the best playground in London with the best swings you would probably want to go there and see it for yourself.

We have been learning about God's kingdom. God's kingdom was the best. You might remember that Solomon was a wise king who ruled over God's people in a place called Israel. [King, People, and Place visuals] Solomon's kingdom was really good. Solomon was a wise king who ruled really well. Solomon ruled so well that the kingdom was safe from enemy attack and Solomon ruled so well that the kingdom was really wealthy. And in the middle of the kingdom was God's house the temple. God's kingdom under Solomon was brilliant, it was a wonderful place to live, it was the best.

A very important lady called the Queen of Sheba had heard about Solomon's kingdom and how brilliant it was. The queen of Sheba lived a long way away and she wanted to come and find out for herself if what she had heard about King Solomon and the kingdom was true. The Queen of Sheba took the long journey, she was very important and came with lots of servants and camels carrying gold and other precious things. She came and had a look around Solomon's kingdom and tested King Solomon's wisdom with really hard questions. The queen of Sheba was very, very impressed, she had heard that Solomon's kingdom was good, but it was even better than she thought it would be. The food, the servants, the temple, even Solomon's wisdom were all better than the Queen of Sheba had thought they would be. The people under King Solomon were SO Happy. It was like a birthday party: lots of good food, lots of good friends, lots of good fun. The Queen of Sheba exclaimed, 'How happy your people must be!' God's kingdom under Solomon was a wonderful place to live, it was the best.

Sadly though it didn't last. Even though King Solomon was really wise, he made some silly choices. He did some things that God had told him not to do, and very quickly all the things that made Solomon's Kingdom so good were soon gone.


Thankfully this isn't the end of the story. Solomon's kingdom sounded really good; I would have liked to have lived there. The good news is that there is somewhere that is even better than Solomon's kingdom, somewhere even better than London's best café, swimming pool or playground. Jesus' kingdom – the Kingdom of Heaven.


The Kingdom of Heaven is where Jesus rules over his people. It is a real place that we


can go to when we die if we trust in Jesus. It will be even better than Solomon's kingdom. God tells us lots about the kingdom of heaven in the bible, God says it will be a bit like a party, the best party you can imagine, a party with really amazing food and drink a place where everyone is happy, no one cries or ever gets hurt. It's a place where we can live with King Jesus, the best and wisest king who has ever lived, and he will be our friend. The great thing about the Kingdom of Heaven is unlike a birthday party, this party never ends. The Kingdom of heaven is the best place to be. I can't wait to go there!


Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.
Wow God/ We praise you God... _____

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.
Sorry God... _____

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.
Thank you God... _____

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.
Please God... _____

🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.
We've gathered together to hear from God,
And now it's time for craft.'*

Craft

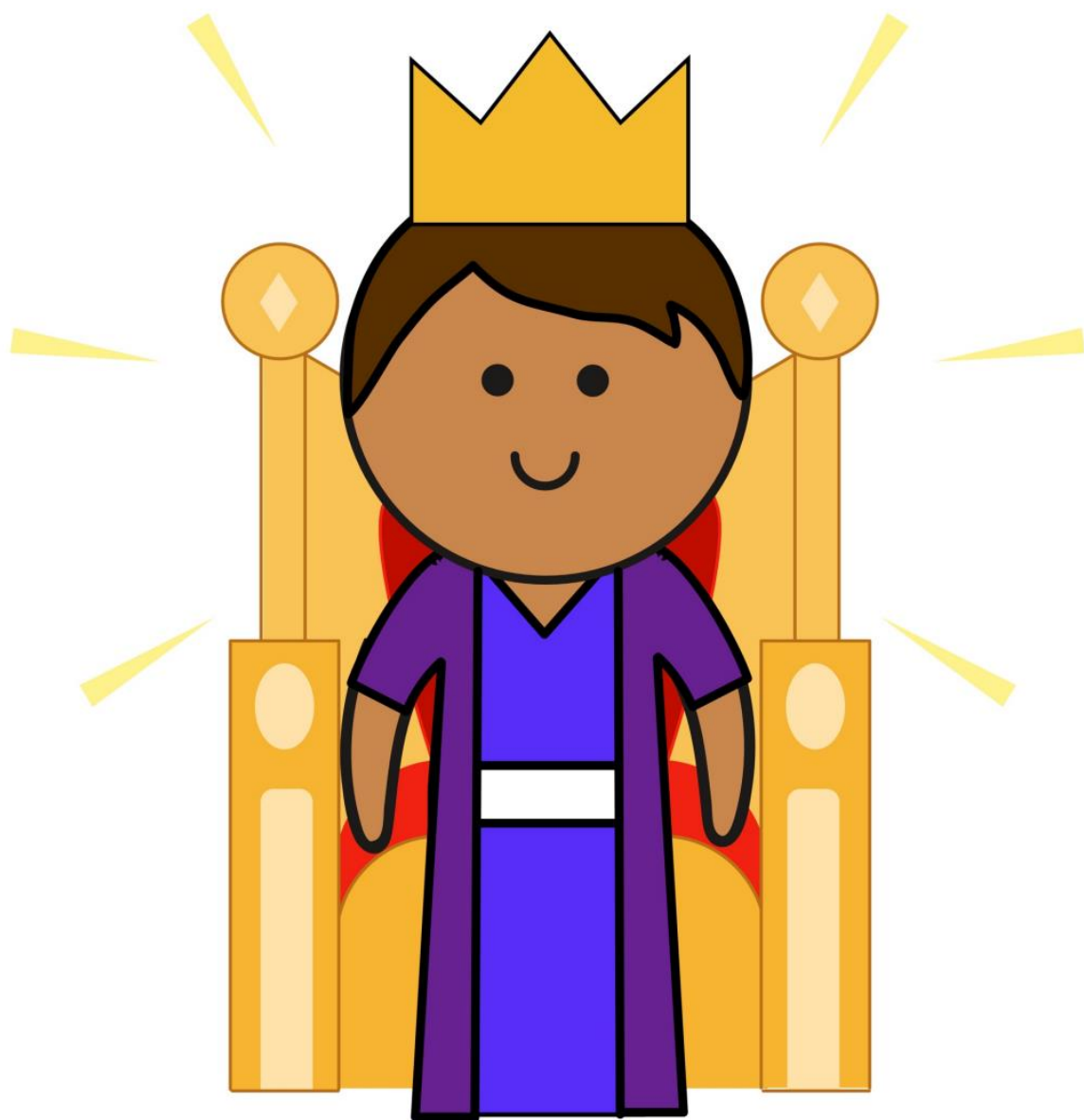
Craft ideas...

Week 1: Colour in the Queen of Sheba's retinue and add to story board.

Week 2: Make party hats and blow up balloons.

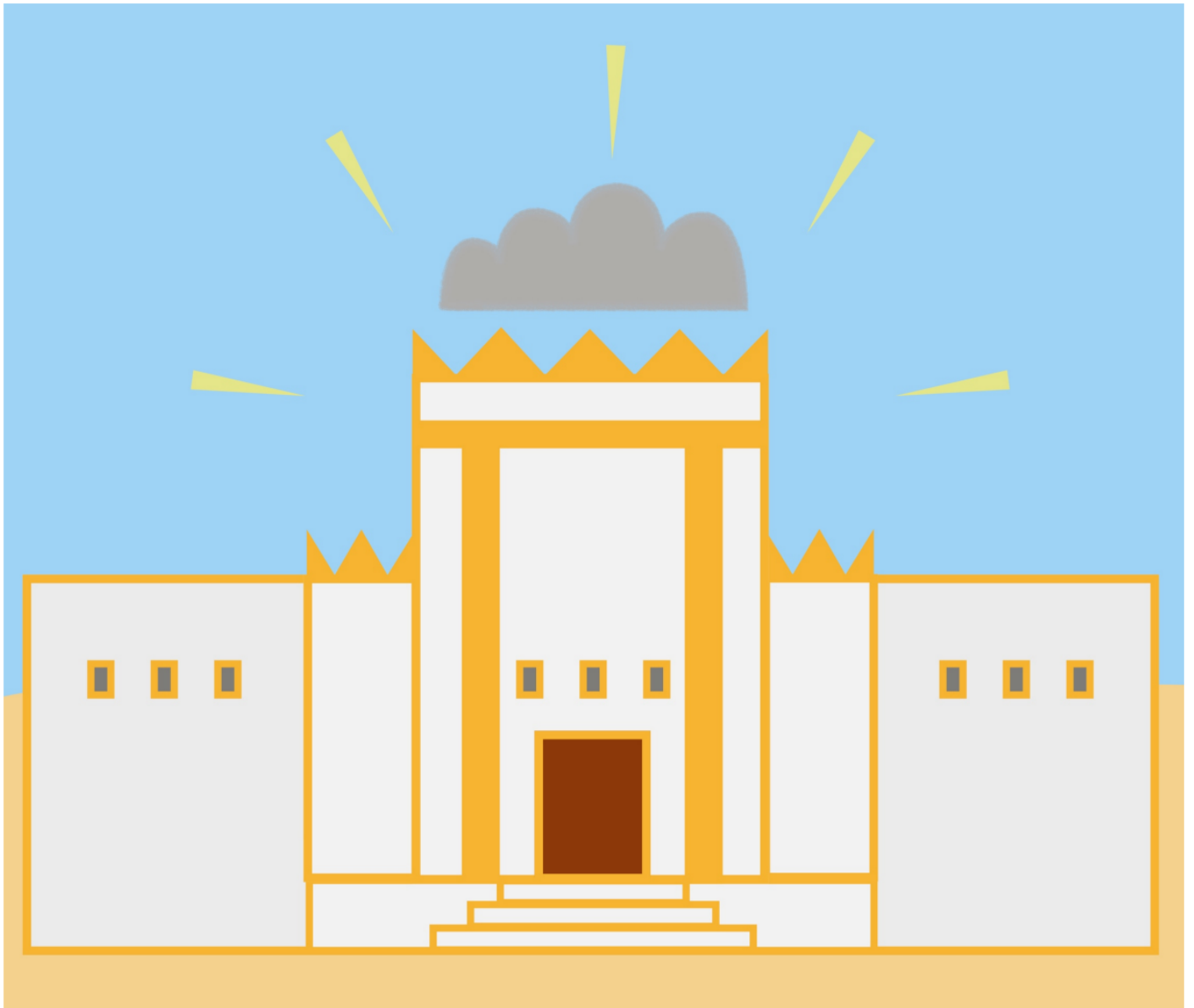
Concept sheets

God's kingdom...



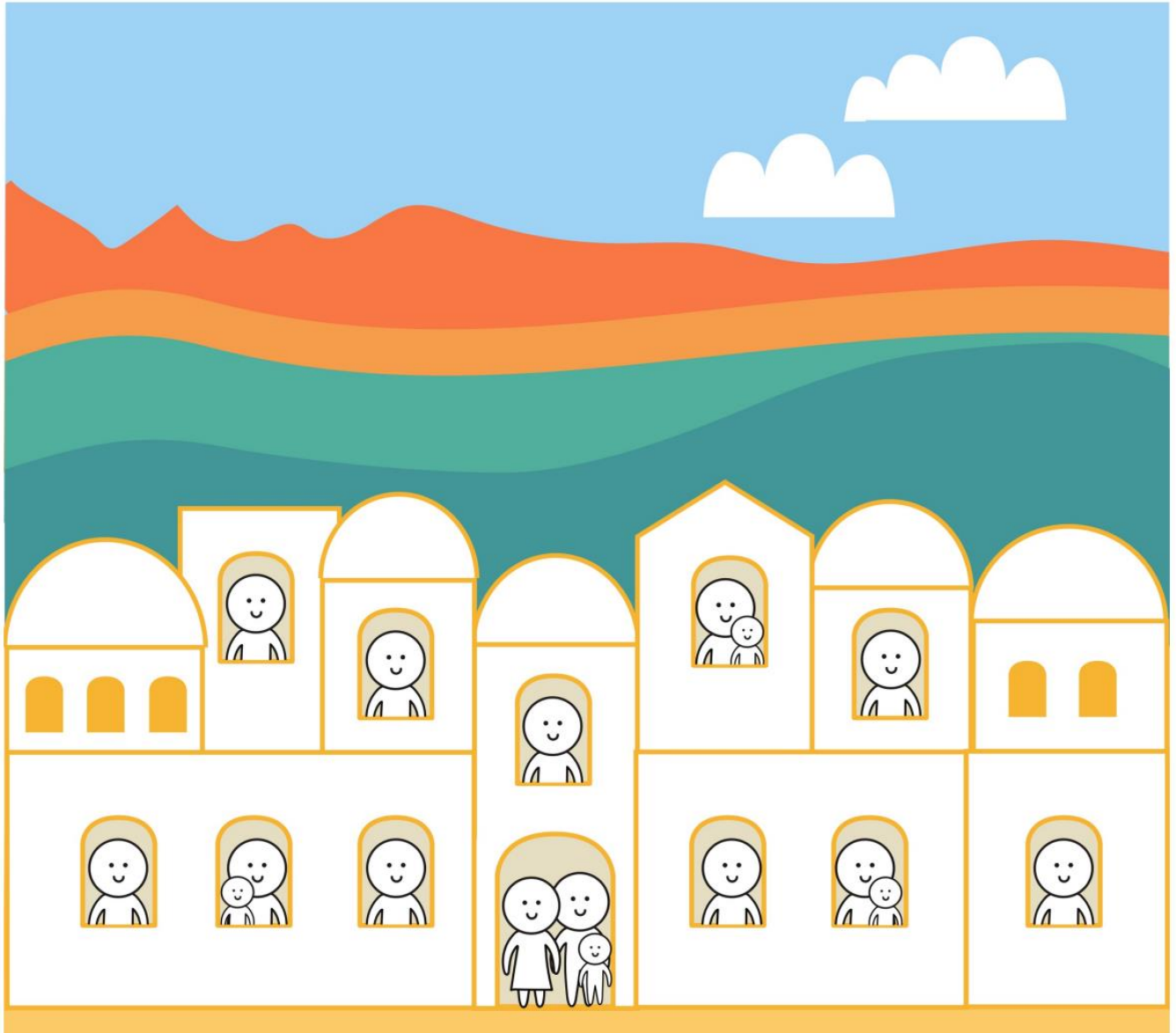
...is ruled by
God's wise king

God's kingdom...



...is where God
lives

God's kingdom...



...is the best!



St Helen's
Bishopsgate



St Helen's Children's Ministry

