



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

Bible time booklet | 5-11's

1 Kings 1-11

A picture of God's kingdom



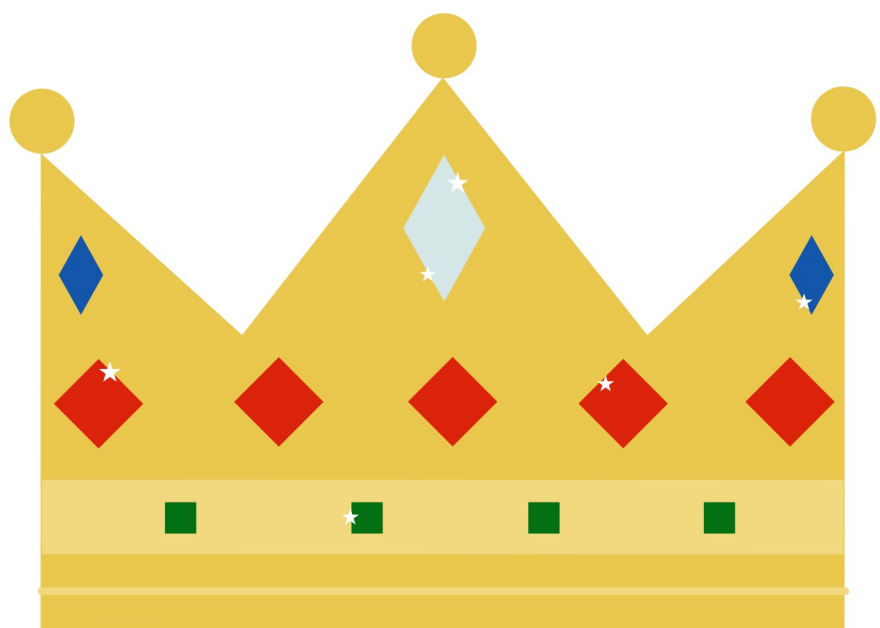
1 Kings 1-11

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

This is the memory verse we'll be learning as we go through 1 Kings:

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



Using the material – a guide for parents

We hope these Bible times will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear from the book of 1 Kings about God's wonderful kingdom.
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify, reinforce, or build their understanding.
- To give you an opportunity to help your child further think through how they are responding to what they are hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue to bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Why not get into the habit of praying with your child, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your child.

You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime. You could also do the study over a whole week, doing a question each day.

Here are some ideas:

- For smaller children, you might choose to read the story recap, think about the first 'look' question and then pray.
- Slightly older children might be able to look at one of the 'think' questions too, and the oldest may manage to cover all the questions.
- If you have older children, who want to go further than the study, you could read the rest of the passage and any other bits we miss out with them and perhaps think together what it adds to our understanding of the big idea.

God's promised kingdom

Kingdoms are made up of three things: 1) a place, 2) a king, and 3) a people. The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. King Charles III is king. And he rules over the British people. God had promised King David that one of his sons would be king over God's people in a kingdom that would last forever. One of his sons, Solomon, was king after him. Solomon had a really wonderful and safe kingdom. But it didn't last for ever. God still kept his promise though. David's great (x26) grandson was a man named Jesus. Jesus is God's chosen king. Those who follow him are the people of his kingdom. And they will one day live with him in the new heavens and new earth God will create. Jesus is the king over the wonderful and safe forever kingdom God promised King David. We're going to look back to Solomon's kingdom to see a picture, a shadow, a glimpse, a taste, of what Jesus' kingdom will be like.



Read

Pray and read 2 Samuel 7:10-13



Look

Look at verses 10-13... List what God promises King David?

Look closer... at verse 13. How long will this kingdom last?



Think

Hm... Do you live in a kingdom?

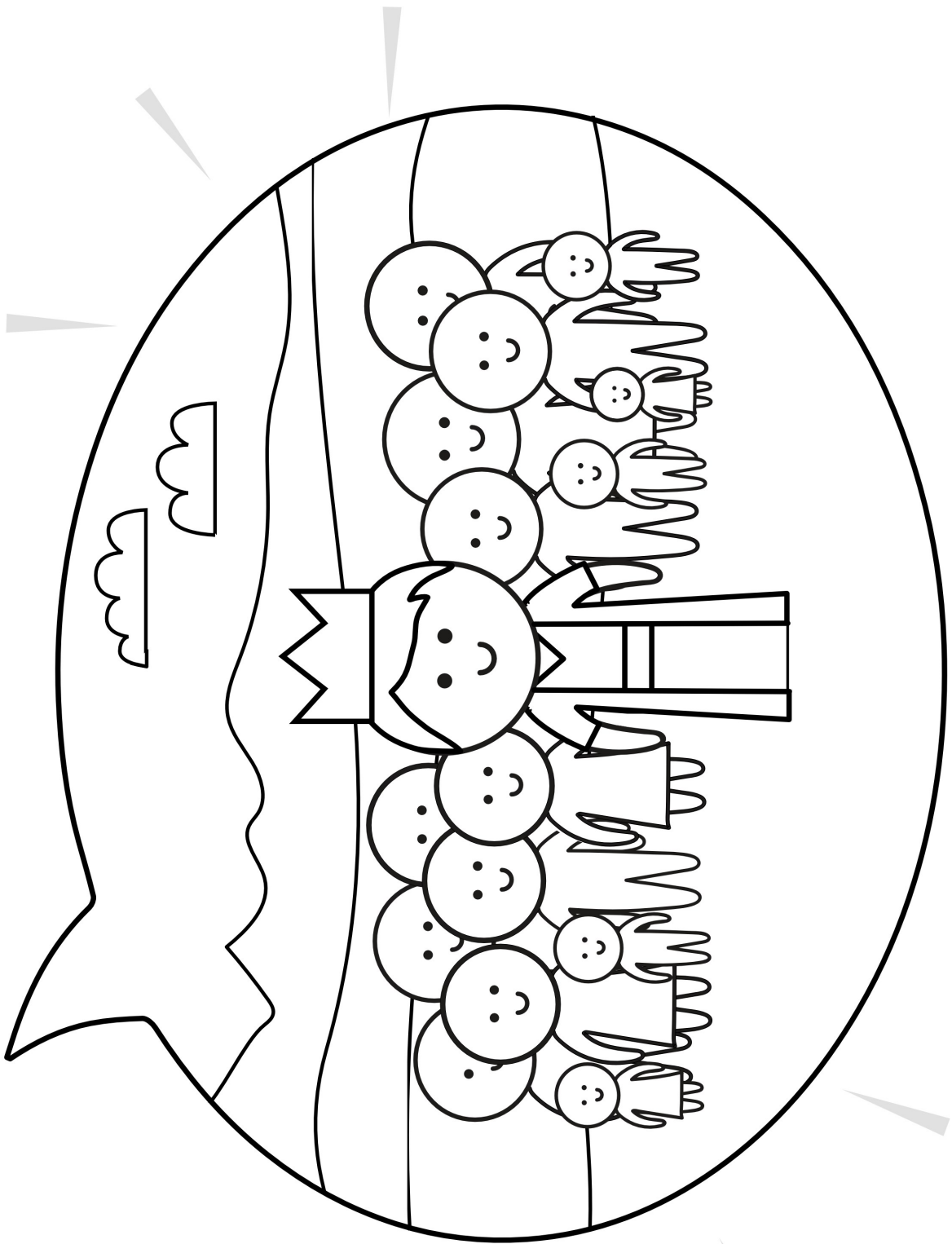
Hmm... Write down something you are looking forward to seeing in the book of 1 Kings.

Hmmm... Which is your favourite promise from 2 Samuel 7:8-16?



Pray

Let's **thank** God for promising a for ever kingdom for his people.



God's kingdom is ruled by God's King

King David was getting old. And it was time for one of his sons to take over. David had chosen Solomon. But one of his other sons, Adonijah, thought, 'I will be king!' He prepared a chariot, found some important officials, and threw a massive party. At the party they chanted, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

When David had heard what Adonijah had done, he called Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and told them to make Solomon king. As they anointed Solomon king over Israel, they blew trumpets and the people cried out, 'Long live King Solomon!' It was so loud the ground shook. When Adonijah's guests heard this they ran away terrified. Adonijah realised that he wasn't 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.

This is a picture of God's forever kingdom. God's forever kingdom is ruled by his king, King Jesus, no one else.



Read

Pray and read 1 Kings 1:38-40, 2:24-25, 2:46b



Look

Look at 2:46b... In the end, who was king of Israel?

Look closer... at 2:24-25. Did God keep his promise to King David?



Think

Hm... Who is God's for ever king?

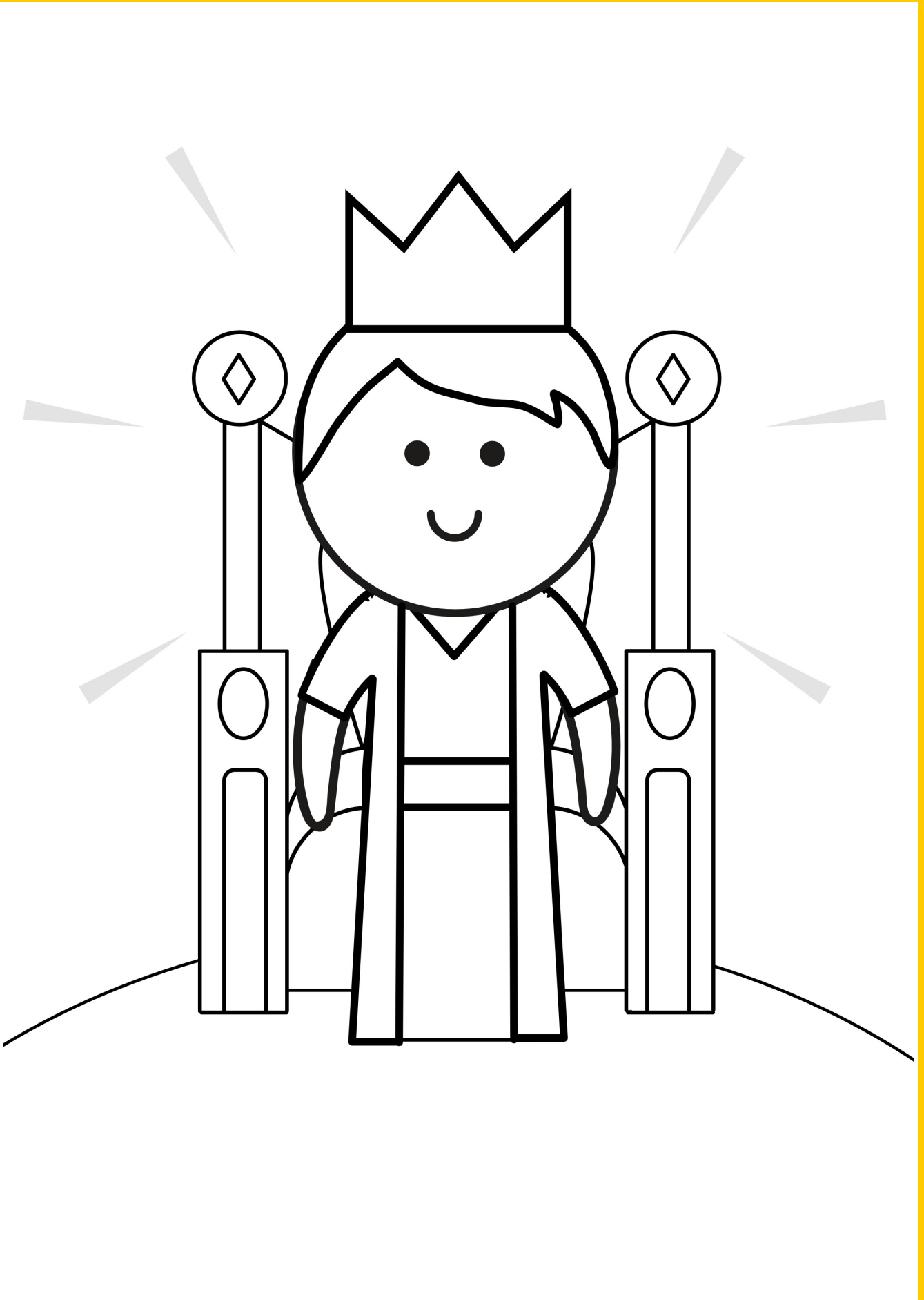
Hmm... Will those who try to make themselves king succeed?

Hmmm... Why does God make Jesus king?



Pray

Let's **praise** God for putting his king, King Jesus, on the throne of his forever kingdom.



God's kingdom is ruled with God's wisdom

If you were king of a kingdom, what would you need to rule your kingdom? One night, God appeared to King Solomon. God said, '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 knew it'd be hard to be king of God's kingdom. How would he know what is best? How would he decide what is right? So he asks God for wisdom. And that's exactly what God gave him.

Wise King Solomon ruled God's kingdom with great wisdom. And because Solomon did what was good and right and best, the kingdom became a wonderful place to live. The people ate and drank and played and laughed and were happy. Wise king Solomon is a picture of King Jesus. Jesus is our wise king – he is the wisest of kings. And he rules his kingdom and people with wisdom. He knows what is good and right and best. And because of his wisdom, his kingdom will be the most wonderful place to live. People will eat and drink and play and laugh and be happy. All because Jesus is a wise king.



Read

Pray and read 1 Kings 4:29-34



Look

Look at verses 29-34... On a scale of 1-100 how wise would you say Solomon was?

Look closer... at verse 29. Who gave Solomon his wisdom?



Think

Hm... Can you think of a wise ruler? (A leader, teacher, family member?)

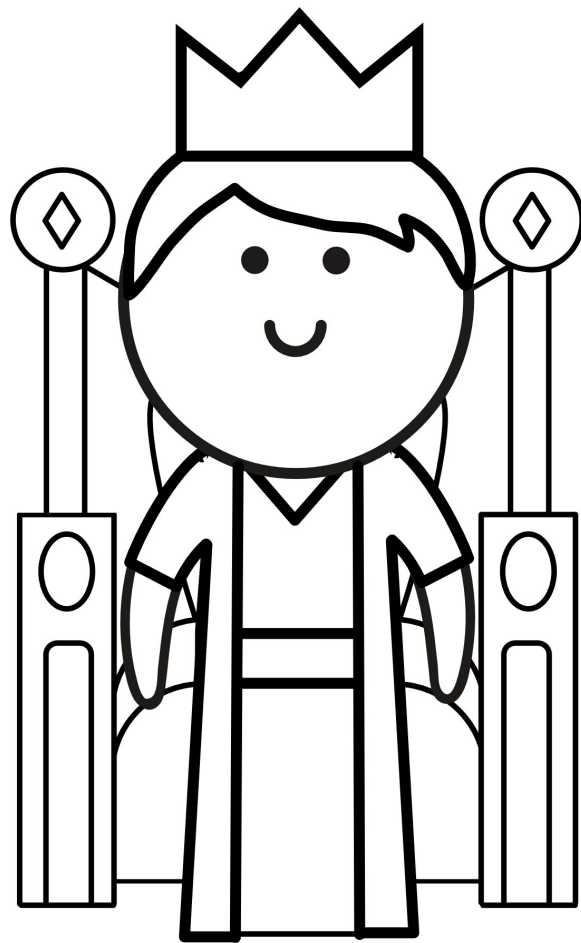
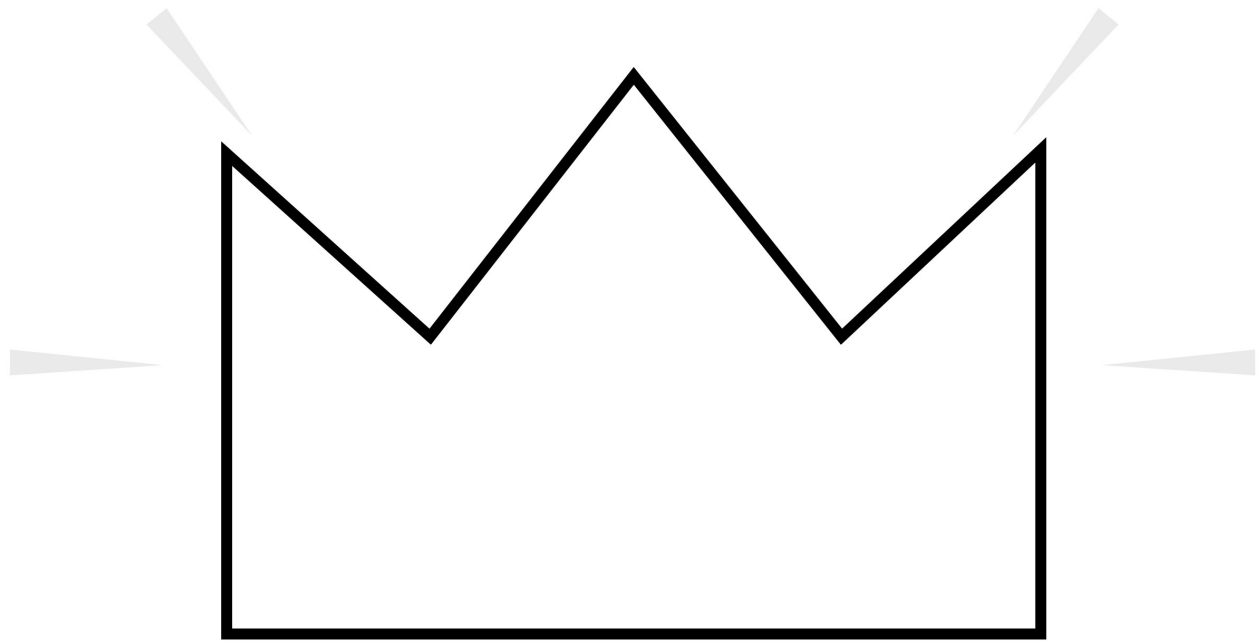
Hmm... Why do wise kings lead to wonderful kingdoms?

Hmmm... What would a kingdom be like to live in if the ruler wasn't wise?



Pray

Let's **thank** God that Jesus is a wise king who is bringing a wonderful kingdom.



God's kingdom is where God forgives

God's kingdom was a great place to live. But what if the people sinned; would God allow them to stay? We're going to see that he will because of a special building.

God wanted somewhere where his glory would dwell and his name would be known. Somewhere more permanent than the tabernacle. So God got Solomon to build a temple for him. Solomon gathered wood and bronze and silver and gold and stone. He got labourers and craftsmen and went to work. It took seven years to build the temple. And once it was complete, it was magnificent. The ark of the covenant was put inside. God's glory filled the temple. There was a big party to celebrate. And at the opening celebration, Solomon prayed a big prayer. He asked God that when the people came to the temple and said sorry for their sin, that God would hear from heaven and forgive them. They could then continue to live in the kingdom.

Today we don't need the temple. Jesus came to earth and gave each of us his spirit. Now we can talk to God anytime, anywhere. And when we talk to God, we can say sorry for our sin, he will listen, he will forgive, and he'll let us live in his kingdom for ever.



Read

Pray and read 1 Kings 8:29-30



Look

Look at verse 30... What happens at the temple?

Look closer... at verses 27 & 29. What isn't and what is at the temple?



Think

Hm... Why is the temple important?

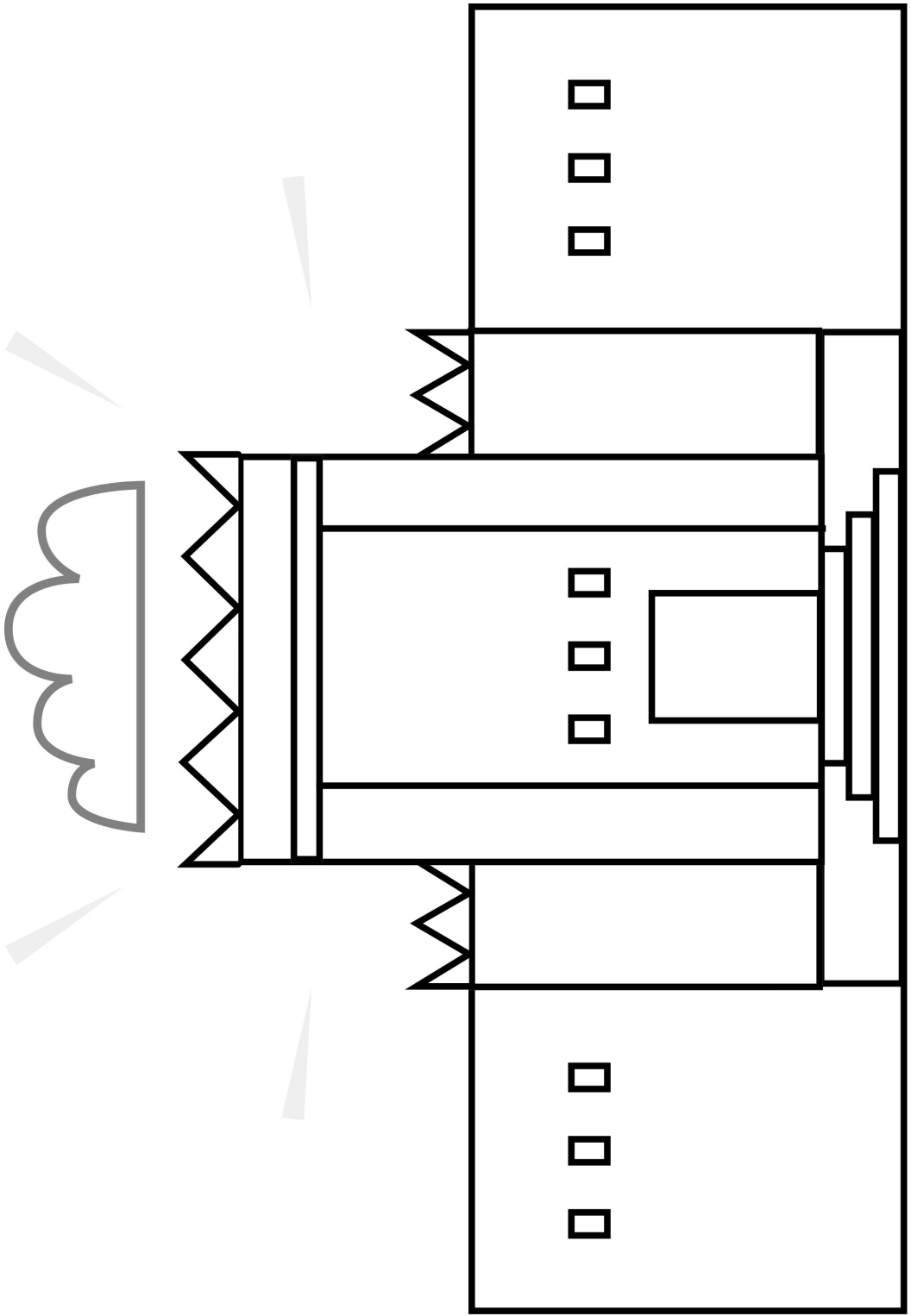
Hmm... If the temple was like a big gold telephone box, what is the Spirit like?

Hmmm... What do we need to say sorry to God for?



Pray

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



God's kingdom is wonderful

I wonder where your favourite place to live is. What makes it so good? Today we'll see that Solomon's kingdom was a wonderful place to live.

King Solomon had a visitor – the Queen of Sheba. She had heard lots about how wonderful Solomon's kingdom was so she came to see for herself. King Solomon showed her all his kingdom and answered all her questions. The Queen of Sheba was blown away. She was amazed. Solomon was wiser than she had been told. The kingdom was richer than she realised – there was so much gold and wealth and food and prosperity. And the people were happy, happy, happy. What a wonderful place to live!

Solomon's kingdom is a picture of how wonderful God's kingdom will be. In God's kingdom there will be a wise king who will only make good and right and best decisions. There will be lots of riches and wealth so that everyone will have all they need and more. And there will be joy and happiness and the sound of laughter everywhere. What a wonderful place to live!



Read

Pray and read 1 Kings 10:1-9



Look

Look at verse 8... Pull a face to show how the people felt in Solomon's kingdom.

Look closer... at verses 1-9. Use your finger to point at some of the wonderful things about Solomon's kingdom.



Think

Hm... Pull a face to show how people will feel in Jesus' kingdom.

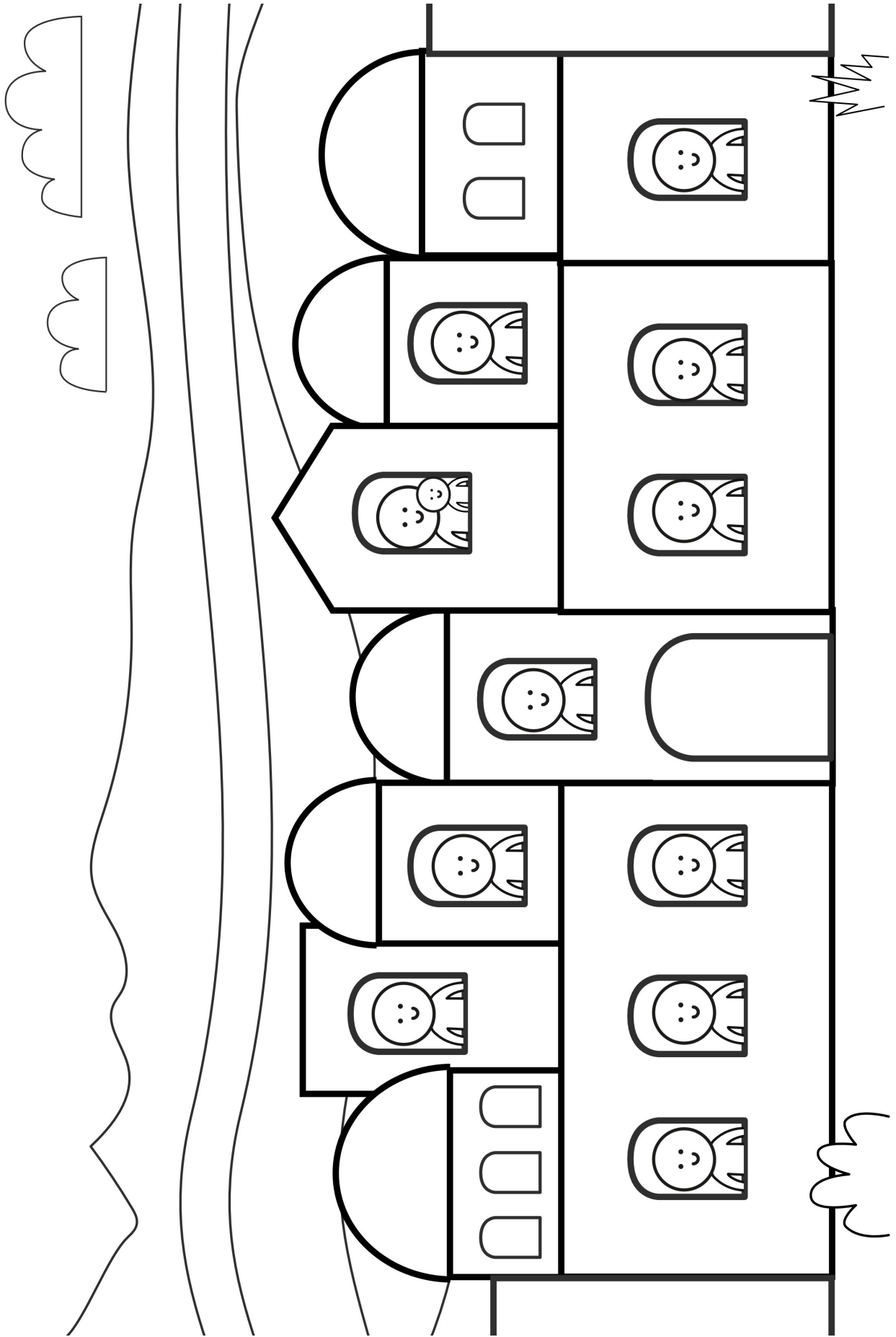
Hmm... What are you looking forward to about Jesus' kingdom?

Hmmm... Imagine what a Saturday in Jesus' kingdom will be like.



Pray

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



God's kingdom is for ever

Birthday parties are brilliant. Christmas is amazing. Holidays are so much fun. But the problem with them all is that they come to an end. And that's what happened to Solomon's kingdom too. Solomon turned away from the Lord. His 700 wives encouraged him to serve other god's and this made God angry. 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.

But remember what God promised King David. God promised that his kingdom 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 king and the wonderful kingdom was almost completely destroyed. But, 950 years later, David's great (x26) grandson, Jesus, was born. Jesus is the perfect king. He rules God's kingdom. The kingdom will not be torn away from him. His rule and his kingdom will last forever. Like a never-ending birthday party. If we are trusting in King Jesus, we are the people of his kingdom, and we can look forward to being with him in his wonderful kingdom for ever. We will be happy, and safe, and get to enjoy the good things God gives, forever.



Read

Pray and read 1 Kings 11:9-11



Look

Look at verses 9-10... Why was God angry with Solomon?

Look closer... at verse 11. What would God do?



Think

Hm... Who is the king of God's kingdom?

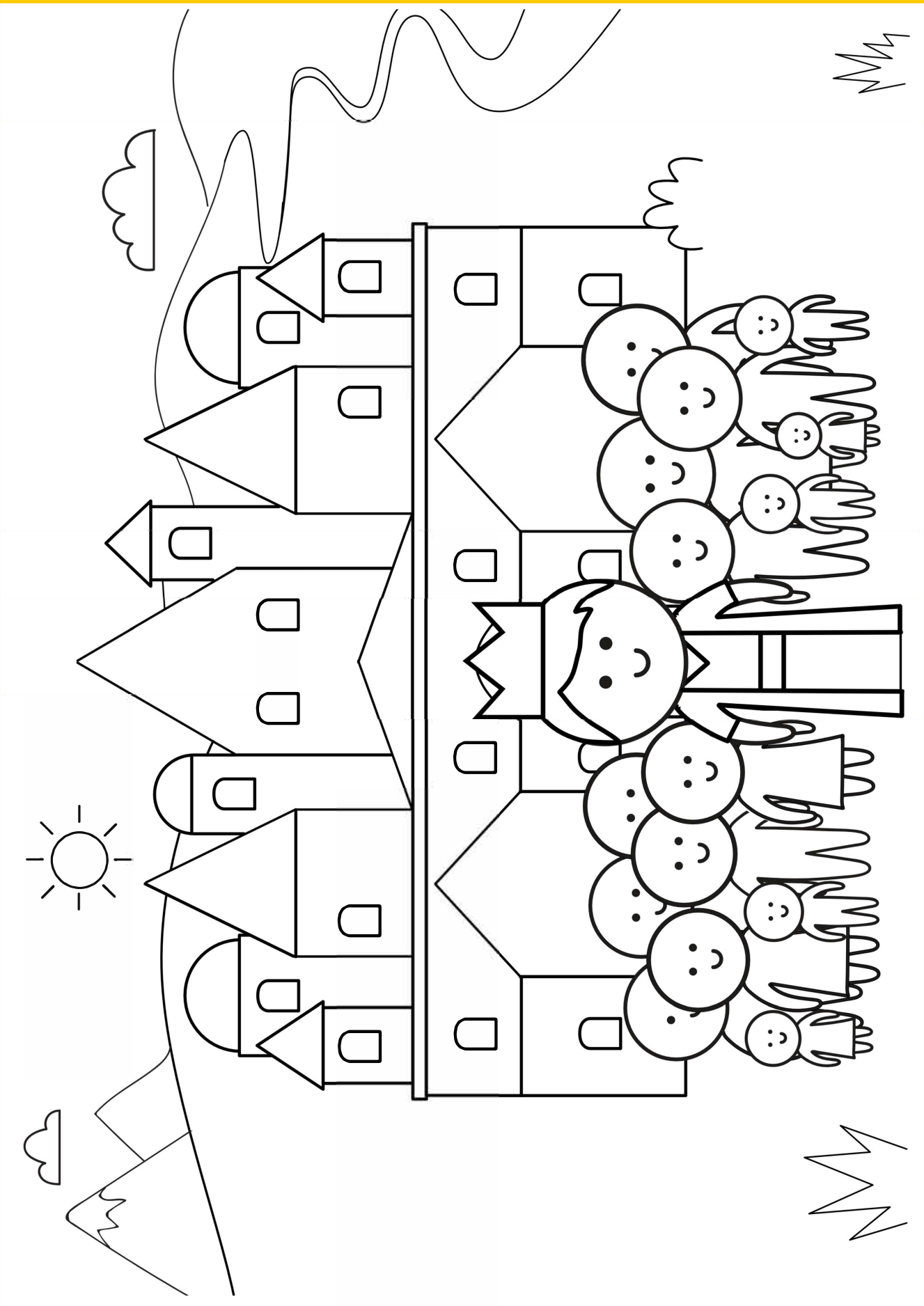
Hmm... Why will the kingdom not be taken away from Jesus?

Hmmm... What are you looking forward to about God's everlasting kingdom?.



Pray

Let's **thank** God that his kingdom will last for ever.



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