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HOW HAVE YOU CHANGED SINCE CHILDHOOD?

The King Who Reigns Forever

The POINT ➤

Jesus rules His kingdom now
and forever.

➤ ISAIAH 9:6-7

⁶ For a child will be born for us,
a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ The dominion will be vast,

and its prosperity will never end.

He will reign on the throne of David

and over his kingdom,

to establish and sustain it

with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

➤ 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.”



FOR LEADERS (15 minutes)

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation, and He will make all things new.

Message to Leaders

Jesus was born in the line of David and, therefore, was fit to be Israel's King. Further, He is God's Son and is King of kings and rules over all the universe. Those who submit to His reign will be part of His eternal kingdom and will experience His blessings for eternity.

› Engage Option 1

Select one student volunteer to come up front. Give the student a crown, robe, and staff. Allow the student to give commands to the other students that they must follow. Say, **“Jesus rules His kingdom as a perfect King, and He will continue to reign for all of eternity.”**

› Engage Option 2

Decorate the room with a throne and royal garments (e.g., robe, crown, etc.). Say, **“Jesus will forever be our King, and we should worship Him as the only King worthy of our praise.”**

› Engage Option 3

Search the internet for “Who Is This King of Glory? — Jimmy Needham.” Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **“We serve a powerful King and Savior in Jesus, and He will reign on His throne forever.”**

NOTE: Always make sure you preview any video clip you show students and ensure it is appropriate for your church and ministry.

LEADER PACK ELEMENTS

If you have the optional Leader Pack, consider the following:

ITEM 4: Consider using the **He Will Be Named Poster** to highlight the description of Jesus in verses 6-7.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.



THE SETTING

Our passages deal with messages about the future birth of the same child. In the eighth century BC, God called the prophet Isaiah to deliver a message of hope that included the reign of a unique kind of king. More than seven hundred years after Isaiah's prophecy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman with the message that she would give birth to a unique child who would reign as King forever.

FACT:

Einstein was born in Germany to a Jewish family in 1879. When Israel's first president died in 1952, the Israeli government offered to appoint Einstein as the nation's second president. He declined.¹

Albert Einstein was not the smartest kid in school. Quite the opposite. He didn't speak a word until four years old and didn't learn to read until he was seven. It had to come as a surprise to his teachers and classmates when he later earned a Nobel prize for his contributions in physics.

For generations, God had promised to send a Messiah to rescue His people. God's people expected a powerful military leader and political ruler who would deliver them from their Roman oppressors. Jesus came to do far more than they could have imagined.

Those who watched Jesus grow up like any other Jewish child and become a carpenter were likely surprised by His work as a rabbi. Even to those who knew of all the angelic announcements surrounding His arrival, His wisdom and power displayed through His teaching and service surely exceeded anything they expected.

Jesus became King of kings and Lord of lords—titles He holds now and forever.



IMPART (30 minutes)

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.

ISAIAH 9:6-7

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this. **ISAIAH 9:6-7**

For most people, Christmas is celebrated one day each year. Many people treat Christmas as a holiday to be with family, enjoy good food, and exchange presents—and these things are good. However, for Christians, Christmas is much more than these. It's about the birth of Jesus, who left the glories of heaven to come into this broken world. He came as a man and took on our weaknesses in order to bring salvation to His people.

Isaiah 9:6-7 is a prophecy about Jesus that reveals specific ways He would fulfill God's purposes. In Isaiah 9:1-3, God reveals that the Messiah would appear in the region of Galilee. Isaiah went on to describe how God would bless the people with joy and freedom from their oppressors, establishing a new kingdom that would be ruled by a new kind of King. Verses 6-7 describe that King.

- **The government will be on his shoulders:** This is the image of a king putting on his royal robes, representing his authority and responsibility.
- **Wonderful Counselor:** "Wonderful" comes from the same root word for the miracles that occurred in Egypt (Ex. 3:20). As our counselor, Jesus reveals the wisdom of God in the things He says and the ways He lives.
- **Mighty God:** This is a common title for God (Deut. 10:17; Ps. 24:8; Jer. 32:18) and clearly points to Jesus' being Himself God. Jesus isn't just a powerful and influential man, but Creator and God of the universe.
- **Eternal Father:** Let's not be confused—this isn't speaking of Jesus within the context of the Trinity. Instead, in ancient times, leaders of nations were often seen as the father of the people. Think of George Washington as the father of our nation or of Father Abraham. Similarly, Jesus will be the leader of God's people who offers provision and protection as a father should.
- **Prince of Peace:** Jesus will establish a kingdom of peace, and through His death on the cross, He allows us to have peace in our relationship with God.

History has given us world and national leaders we respect and admire, but their reigns only lasted for a short time. But Jesus, who is far greater than any other earthly leader, will reign for eternity. In these verses, we see a picture of who Jesus is and the ways He will reign. The birth of Jesus points forward in hope to the day when Jesus will come again, not as a baby, but as the eternal King who will establish forever God's eternal kingdom. God was faithful to send us a Savior. He will be faithful to send us a King!

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 30)

- 1 In what ways does Christ's eternal reign offer hope?
- 2 Which of these titles and descriptions of Jesus stands out to you the most?



IMPART

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.

LUKE 1:26-31

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **LUKE 1:26-31***

Eight hundred years after Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah, Jesus was born, fulfilling these prophecies. The Gospel of Luke records the angelic announcement regarding the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25). Six months later, the same angel, Gabriel, would come to Mary with a greater announcement.

Angels are God's servants, and we see them delivering important messages in many instances throughout Scripture. In fact, the word *angel* means "messenger." Gabriel's initial words startled Mary, but he told her not to be afraid. Even in this unexpected and overwhelming moment, Mary didn't need to be afraid because she had found favor with God. This means that Mary was the recipient of God's grace. Thankfully, for all people who have followed Jesus in faith, we have received God's grace.

Obviously, God was bestowing a special honor on Mary. For many of us, knowing God is present can be a comfort. For others, however, the presence of God can cause them to tremble with fear. Scripture teaches that Mary was "troubled" by the angel's greeting—she simply couldn't grasp why she'd been chosen by God.

Twice in verse 27, Luke used the word *virgin*, pointing out a detail that was critical to everything else. Luke's emphasis highlighted God's role in this event. This was no ordinary conception. Gabriel gave more detail in verse 35: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." This angel's statement is clear: Mary's son would not be conceived as all other children—by an earthly father—but would be called the Son of God.

Though Jesus would be the Son of God, He was born to an earthly mother. Mary's vital role emphasized that the Messiah would be fully human. Jesus became one of us. He was born, lived, and died as a human being. Hebrews 4:15 assures us that Jesus experienced, while on this earth, all the same things we do. He knows what it's like to face tests, trials, and temptations, yet He never sinned. If Jesus had committed even one sin, He would not be qualified to be our Savior. However, He lived the perfect life, and because of this, He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus, because He was conceived by God and born to a woman, is both fully God and fully man. This was always a part of God's plan to save us from our sins.

Jesus is a different kind of King. He is faultless, He will reign in perfect righteousness, and He will lead God's people into eternal blessing. #IrrefutableBSFL

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 31)

- 3** How was the angel's announcement life-changing for Mary and for us?
- 4** What does it mean to have favor with God?
- 5** Why is it important that Jesus was both fully God and fully man?



IMPART

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.

LUKE 1:32-33

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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.” **LUKE 1:32-33**

It was incredible that Mary, a virgin, would give birth to a son. But Gabriel went further in describing Jesus’ mission, which was unique in all of history because of who Jesus is, what He will do, and where He will be for all eternity.

- **He will be great:** Most parents see their children as exceptional, no matter what they do or who they become. Gabriel’s announcement pointed to someone infinitely greater, for great was a word used frequently to describe God in the Old Testament (Deut. 10:17; Ps. 145:3; 147:5). No one is greater than Jesus, and no one ever will be.
- **He will be called the Son of the Most High:** Most High was an Old Testament term reserved for God Himself. Not only is Jesus great, but He is also God’s Son. As the son of Mary, Jesus is fully human. As the Son of the Most High, Jesus is fully God.
- **He will be given the throne of His Father David:** Jacob was the father of the sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. In the eyes of the Jewish people, David was considered to be Israel’s greatest king. God promised King David, “Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever” (2 Sam. 7:16). Isaiah promised that Jesus, who would be born in the line of David, would rule over Israel as an even greater King than David. And Jesus would rule not only over Israel, but as the King of kings over all creation.
- **His kingdom will have no end:** David was an earthly king, and though he led Israel in ways that they experienced God’s blessings, David had his fair share of faults and he eventually died. He was followed by a few good kings. However, there were many more who did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. Jesus will be a different kind of King. He is faultless, He will reign in perfect righteousness, and He will lead God’s people into eternal blessing. Further, there will be no need for any king, good or bad, to follow Jesus, because He will reign for all eternity!

Because Jesus is the Son of the Most High, He will rule over all creation for eternity. When we commit our lives to following Jesus in faith, we receive the incredible privilege of living as members of God’s family and as part of Jesus’ kingdom where we will experience His blessings forever.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE (P. 31)

- 6** What responsibilities do we have as members of the kingdom of God?
- 7** How do the ways you live show that Jesus is your King and rules over your life?
- 8** As followers of Jesus, what does it mean that we are part of an eternal kingdom?



LIVE IT OUT (10 minutes)

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation, and He will make all things new.

Jesus was born in the line of David and, therefore, was fit to be Israel's King. Further, He is God's Son and is King of kings and rules over all the universe. Those who submit to His reign will be part of His eternal kingdom and will experience His blessings for eternity.

> CHRIST

Gabriel announced that Jesus would be the King and that His rule would have no end.

9 What areas of your life have you not given over to Jesus' rule? This week, surrender those areas to Jesus as King.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD



LIVE IT OUT

THE POINT // JESUS RULES HIS KINGDOM NOW AND FOREVER.

› COMMUNITY

God's kingdom exists where His people live under Jesus' reign. The church is, of course, to live as Jesus calls us.

10 How does your church show that Jesus is our ultimate authority?

11 How can you do your part in following your church leaders in order to show your commitment to following Jesus?



› CULTURE

In our culture, people commonly do what they want and with no concern for the ways Jesus calls us to live.

12 What are the benefits of living under the rule of Jesus?

Share these things this week with a non-believing friend.