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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

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup>Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## 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.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

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

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.

## ISAIAH 9:6-7

**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?



## LUKE 1:26-31

**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?

## LUKE 1:32-33

**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?

*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*



# LIVE IT OUT



## 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

## > COMMUNITY

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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

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

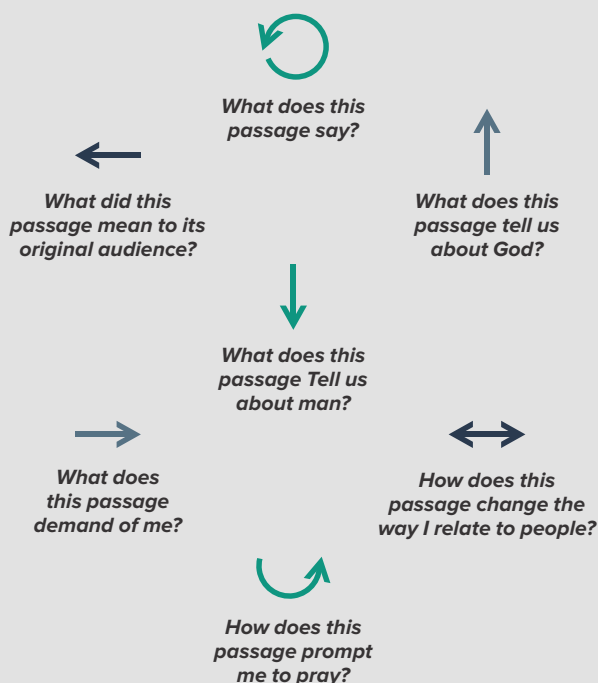
**12** What are the benefits of living under the rule of Jesus?

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

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One JOHN 18:33

In Luke 23, we read of the accusations against Jesus the crowd declared to Pilate. The Jews offered up a number of accusations, specifically that He was opposing Rome, leading the people in rebellion, and claiming to be king. All of these were intentional lies, as Jesus had done none of these things. So Pilate asked Jesus if He claimed to be king. Jesus had never sought any earthly power. He'd never led people to rebel against the authorities in order to follow Him. And in His current state, having been beaten mercilessly, He was an image not of royalty, but to be pitied. Despite all this, Pilate could not have known the weight of what he asked. Jesus was no earthly king—at least not at the present time. But He was, even in that moment, the King over all creation.

- **How do you sometimes fail to recognize Jesus as King in the ways you live?**
- **What steps can you take to more fully recognize Jesus' authority and power?**



## Day Two

# JOHN 18:34

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The charge of the Jewish people against Jesus was that He'd claimed to be a king and had stirred trouble against Rome. But Pilate had never heard of Jesus' leading a revolt or seeking political power—Jesus had never done any of these things. Jesus responded to Pilate's question by asking, in turn, about the source of the question. Jesus made the point that there was no proof of the accusations, and He deserved a just trial. We, too, will be accused of wrongdoing. We need to make sure that, just like Jesus, we're above reproach, and when others would slander us, they're proven wrong (1 Pet. 3:16).

- **When have others spoken badly about you?**
- **How can we live so that accusations against us fall flat?**

## Day Three

# JOHN 18:35

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Pilate's response reveals the pride associated with his position. He was a Roman governor, and Rome had authority over the Jews—not the other way around. In essence, he was saying, *I couldn't care less about whether or not you've claimed to be a king. It doesn't affect me either way.* Pilate had no concern for the Jewish customs and perspectives. However, a whole lot of the Jews were upset. Enough, in fact, that they could have caused trouble for Pilate. So he had to at least look into the reasons for the commotion.

There will be times when we will hear gossip or accusations, and we may be tempted to believe them, particularly if they serve, one way or the other, for our own benefit or detriment. We must not buy into it. The Bible forbids gossip (2 Cor. 12:20), and speaking the truth about others is so foundational that God included it in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:16). Let's make sure we only speak—and receive—those things that are true and uplifting.

- **When have you seen false accusations cause real harm?**
- **How can we make sure we don't listen to gossip or lies?**

## Day Four

# JOHN 18:36

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To this point, despite the Jews' accusations, Jesus hadn't explicitly claimed to be the Messiah. He had certainly pointed out the truth about Himself in no uncertain terms (see Matt. 11:2-6). However, He hadn't expressly made the claim. However, in response to Pilate's questions, Jesus did speak in terms of having authority over a kingdom. Jesus' kingdom was no threat to overthrow Pilate as a political leader. It wasn't an earthly kingdom where His followers would fight for their political freedom. Jesus came first and foremost to establish a spiritual and moral kingdom—one in which His followers reflect the goodness of God. Today, as Jesus' followers, we live under His kingship when we reflect the nature and character of God in the ways we live. Jesus is the Messiah. He couldn't deny it, and neither should we. And we are to live in view of His eternal, heavenly kingdom.

➤ **Would you say you are more focused on matters of earth (like Pilate) or heaven (like Jesus)? Explain.**

➤ **How can you live more fully with the heavenly kingdom in view?**

## Day Five

# JOHN 18:37

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Jesus hadn't claimed to be a king. Yet he had spoken in terms of "my kingdom." Pilate couldn't help but put the pieces together, and as he beheld Jesus, beaten and bloodied, he saw not a picture of an earthly king, but of the heavenly King. Jesus was born into this world so that we would see the clearest picture possible of the nature and goodness of God. And this wasn't displayed in His coming as a mighty warrior, destroying anyone who would oppose Him. Instead, He gave us the picture of a humble servant, willing to be beaten without saying a word; willing to die for our sins though He'd never stumbled even once. To see Jesus is to see the truth about God. And if we are to live under His rule, then we must picture God in the same ways Jesus did.

➤ **Why was Jesus born into the world?**

➤ **How do we live under the rule of Christ?**