



CLASS INTRODUCTION: BECOMING A KINGDOM KID

SONG TIME Choose from our suggestions (Table of Contents), or select your own songs.

INTRODUCE TEACHERS, EXPLAIN YOUR RULES & EXPECTATIONS

What images come to mind when I say the words, king, kingdom, castle, prince and princess? What kind of lives do you imagine they lead? (Receive answers.) Princes and princesses have many special privileges as children of a king. However, there are also certain rules and expectations of how they are to behave.

READ MATTHEW 4:23-5:3 FROM A CHILD-FRIENDLY BIBLE.

(To emphasize the importance of Scripture, have children stand as you read.)

God's kingdom is the greatest of all kingdoms. It is better and bigger than we can ever imagine! In this Scripture, we learn the first and most important kingdom rule about how to become a child of the king. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." He wasn't talking about *not* having a lot of money. Being poor in spirit is realizing we have nothing without Jesus—our "spiritual" piggy banks are empty. It is understanding that we are completely sinful—we do wrong things. We disobey God's laws. Nothing in us chooses to follow God's ways. The Bible says it like this, "There is no one who does right, not even one person.", and "All our ways of doing right are like dirty rags in God's sight." Wow, that is an empty bank! (Romans 3:10, Isaiah 64:6) So we really need Jesus to rescue us.

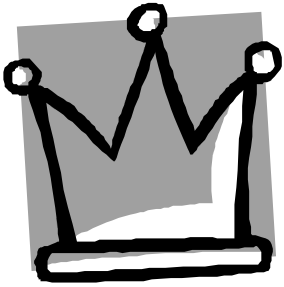
Discuss how Jesus rescues us from our poor situation. What did he do for us?

What must we do? (See Romans 3:23-26, Mathew 4:17 and Romans 10:9-10) Jesus left his kingly throne in heaven, to live a perfect life—he did not sin. He came to earth because he loves us. He knows we cannot live life without sinning. However, our sin can't be overlooked, which is why Jesus took our punishment. When we repent, turn from our sin, and believe that Jesus died and rose again, God gives us his Spirit and we become his children—Kingdom Kids.

As God's children, we too have special blessings and privileges, as well as rules to live by. Over the next several months, we will discover what Jesus taught from the mountainside that day, and how we are to live life as Kingdom Kids.

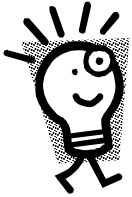
THEME MEMORY VERSE: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17

INTRODUCE MEMORY VERSE CROWN (See patterns section...[available with purchase](#))



LESSON ONE: SALT-THE POSITION

- ▣ Lessons 1-3 concern the position and mission of being kingdom kids.



ENRICHMENT IDEA: SALTY VS. UNSALTY

You will need two pitchers of water, one with saltwater and one without salt. Ask volunteers to come taste the water. Once they've tasted the water, ask them what the difference is between them?

There is no mistaking the difference. One is noticeably, without a doubt salty and the other is not. In today's Bible lesson, Jesus has something important to say about salt and light. Listen now as we read from God's Holy Word.

READ MATTHEW 5:13-16 FROM A CHILD-FRIENDLY BIBLE.

During Jesus' day, salt in that part of the world was mined from rocks underground. It was mixed with clay and sand. Over time—due to exposure to rain and sun—the salt near the surface of the rock lost its saltiness, making it useless. As a result, it was tossed out and walked on. However, the salt that was closest to the inside of the rock stayed salty!

Today we mainly use salt to flavor foods. However, in Jesus' day, salt was used to keep foods from rotting. Today we have refrigerators to keep foods fresh. So maybe if Jesus were speaking to us today he might say, "You are the refrigerators of the earth!"

Knowing these two things about salt: being connected to the rock and keeping us from rotting, what do you think Jesus wants his children to know? Why do you suppose he says we are the salt of the earth? (Receive answers.)

Jesus wants us to understand that, as we remain connected to him—the Rock—we stay salty. When we move further away from him, we lose our saltiness! We're good for nothing. Jesus was perfect. He lived a perfect life. But, the Bible says we're dead in our sins without him. Jesus died on the cross, and took our punishment for doing wrong things, for disobeying God's rules.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT - VOLUME 2 - KINGDOM KIDS

When you're a Christ-follower, a Christian, you have Jesus living in you. He keeps you from spiritually rotting. As a result, Christians keep the rest of the world from rotting too!

Just as the salty water was noticeably different, Christians should be uniquely different from other people! If we're not, what does Jesus say will happen? (If salt loses its saltiness, it is good for nothing, throw it out!)

Discuss the ways Christians keep the world from rotting. (Receive answers. Our lives *should* reflect a noticeable difference in our speech, our behavior, the way we treat others, our plans and goals in life, the things we value, the way we spend our time, money, resources, talents, etc.)

Finally, what does the Bible say is the purpose of being salty Christians? (Receive answers.) We do these good things to give God the credit, the honor and the glory.

Our memory verse says two things about who we are and what we do when we trust in Jesus. Next week we will learn what it means to let our lights shine.

MEMORY VERSE

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...let your light shine"
Matthew 5:13-16

PRAY

CRAFT: GLOW IN THE DARK SALT SHAKERS

Directions are available with purchase

Kingdom Kids –Vol2 of the Sermon on the Mount is available for purchase at:
<http://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/curriculum-sermon-on-mountain.html>

The Be-Attitudes – Vol 1 of the Sermon on the Mount is available for purchase at:
http://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/curriculum_beatitudes.htm