

# Kids of the Kingdom

## Lesson 1-They Hear The King Calling

### Items

### Needed

- baby item
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- Picture of a castle
- Music DVD and player
- length of string to make a clothesline and 28 pins
- streamers for decorating the room
- 28 pieces of cardstock or Bristol board with memory verse words on it
- copies king colouring sheet for each child
- one sheet of drawing paper for each child
- small candies or treats
- medium-sized chest or bin
- pocket folders for each child
- cupcakes

**SYMBOL:** a baby item

**KEY VERSE:** *Acts 2:39 The promise is for you...for all whom the Lord your God will call.*

**KEY POINT:** God calls us by name and wants us to be his child and heir.

**Attendance and Offering Time:** Explain to the children that the money they bring in will go toward helping someone who really needs it (the poor, widows, orphans, street people etc.), just as the Bible instructs us.

**Worship Time:** Play or sing one or two children's worship songs at the beginning of the class to invite the Holy Spirit to be there with you. DVD's with actions would help the children use up some energy before the lesson begins. Try to find some with the king or kingdom mentioned in it.

**Memory Verse Time:** Read and repeat the memory verse and reference several times. You could write it on a board or poster. Then form two groups, which could be numbered off 1, 2, boys against the girls, or any other two groupings you wish to form. Place fourteen clothespins and one set of memory verse words in front of each group. Instruct them to wait for your signal and then have them to try to pin the words and references for the verse onto the clothesline, in the proper order, and in the shortest time possible. Have small individually wrapped candies or prizes available for the winners. You could do this several times, until everyone has gotten a reward, and the children have learned the verse quite well.

**Teaching Time:** Hang up the symbol for this week's lesson.

**Now we're going to talk about something new today, but I hope you're all listening carefully, because I'm going to ask you some questions afterwards. Are you ready?**

**We're going to talk about the Kingdom of God.** What do you think that means? Where is it? What does it look like? Who are the citizens or members of it? How do they think, act and move? How do you become a member of this kingdom? We'll learn all this and more in the next twelve weeks.

**No one can stand before the King unless they are first summoned.** Isaiah 44:3 says the king calls us. You know, in olden days, if the king didn't summon you, you were not allowed to approach him. God has made a way for us to come into his presence. Jesus is that way (Hebrews 10:20). We need to listen to God's voice calling us, hear the words he is saying and respond. God knows all about us and wants us to give ourselves completely to him.

**Did you know that God knew us before we were even formed?** (Isaiah 44:2). The Bible tells us that he knew all our inward parts and in his book, they were already written, before we even had a shape in our mother's womb. That means that the family we would be born or even adopted into, was already in God's mind before we ever came into this world. (See if you can obtain the image of a fetus to show the class.)

God saw what we would look like, be like, and what talents and gifts we would have. He knew what our name would be and he knew everything about us (Isaiah 43:1, Psalm 139:13-18). Isn't that amazing? He knows us, even down to how many hairs we have on our head (Matthew 10:30). God knows what job we will be best suited for when we grow up, and who we will marry, where we will live, at what time and for how long. He knows everything from our past, our present, and our future. That's what makes him God!

**Why do you think God wanted to form us in the first place?** Our purpose in being created was to praise him (Isaiah 43:7). God wanted company, someone to fellowship with and to enjoy. (Discuss this for a few minutes.) We were made to be close to God. How do you become close to someone- in your family? in your school? in your church, or neighbourhood?

**How do you think we become part of God's family or become a member of the Kingdom of God?** How did you become part of your family? (Discuss this) We join God's Kingdom when we are born and adopted into his family (John 3:5-6, Ephesians 1:5). We need to come to God like a little child. They come without holding back, delaying, with enthusiasm, wholeheartedly, and trusting fully. They come without any negative life experiences influencing their thinking. Unless we have child-like faith, Jesus says we cannot enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:17). Once we ask him to accept us, we become God's son or daughter (John 1:12). Then we join his family by his *and* our choice. We join his family by believing on Jesus' name (1 John 1:9).

**Where is this kingdom?** Is it in your home, your backyard, down the street? Is it at church? No, Jesus said the kingdom of God is *within* you. How could this be? Who has some ideas?

Then where does the Kingdom of God begin for us? Where is it? Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21). John 14:16 says, he shall live in you and abide with you forever. So, you see, Jesus comes into our hearts, our lives, our spirits, and he stays there with us—forever.

**And then, once we are part of God’s family, we become his son or daughter.** As a son, we are entitled to all the privileges that living in a family, and especially everything a royal family, can offer (Galatians 4: 5-7. Point to the picture of the castle and talk about what it might be like to live there as a King’s child.)

**There are other rewards too**-sort of like receiving presents! The Bible says: We find favour with God (Proverbs 8:35).

We receive many benefits (Psalm 103). (Read all the benefits out loud to the class.)

We receive power (the authority of the King). “By order of the king”- we can speak on God’s behalf. (Acts 1:8).

We are protected from evil (Mark 16:15-18) and danger (Psalm 91).

Your names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Luke 10: 20). You are passed from death to life--eternal life! (John 3:16).

Do your parents like giving you presents? Do they sometimes give you a present even when there is no reason, just because they love you, or want to, or they see something they know that you would really love? Sometimes they give us things because we ask for them, and they see that we really want or need it. Sometimes we earn a reward, and other times we simply get it because we are a part of the family, like going on a trip or outing because you are all going to do it together.

**Along with the privileges, there are also responsibilities to being a part of God’s Kingdom.** He gives us chores, jobs and assignments to do. Just like at home, being part of a family means everyone ways to contribute to the family or household. God gives us things to do to show we are really his son or daughter. It depends on our age, our abilities and our willingness, but God has jobs for you to do! Did you know that!

What do you think some of them could be? (allow discussion) Talk about honouring and obeying your parents, submitting to one another, being kind, loving etc., Try to also direct the discussion on to things like helping the poor, telling others about Jesus, praying for our enemies, being a friend, etc.

**You are the child of a KING!** That makes you an heir. Do you know what that is? Some people inherit money, things, land or a name- a title like “Duke,” King George, the Third, Queen, etc. You inherit eternal life and also all those privileges we talked about already. Isn’t it an amazing thing? God knew us, he wants to spend time with us, so he calls our name, and he wants us to give us good gifts and live with him forever. Who wants to be a part of God’s family? I sure do!

**Questions:**

1. What is the kingdom of God?
2. How do we become a part of it?
3. What kind of a relationship does God want with us?
4. What are some benefits to belonging to his family?
5. What are some of the responsibilities of being part of the Kingdom of God?

**Activities:**

Draw and colour a castle, throne, King and what you might be doing at the castle. Be sure to include drawing some of the benefits of being a “King’s kid.”

**Alternate or extra activity:** King colouring sheet

If you feel REALLY ambitious, collect all kinds of colours and weights of paper, including Bristol board and paper rolls and begin working on a castle scene with one large Bristol board for the base. Add castle walls, turrets, drawbridges and a coloured moat around it. Every time there is extra time at the end of a lesson, give the children time to add to the project until a small table is filled when the series ends. You may want to draw names at the end to see who gets to take the finished castle home with them.

**Snack time:** make cupcakes and have them predecorated or bring the supplies for the children to decorate them before they eat them.

**Reward Chest:** Show the children the treasure chest let the ones who have earned it choose something from it.

**Hand out the Kingdom Assignment Sheets** for the first week and the folders to carry them in. The teacher, or students, could label them with their names. Explain to the children that when each assignment is completed, an adult has signed them, and they bring them back, along with some offering, they will be able to pick a reward from the treasure chest.