



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The Story of God's Kingdom: Session 5

And There Was No King

Key Statement: Apart from a king, 1) People do what they want, 2) Judgment comes, and 3) Ultimate deliverance is needed.

::CONNECT::

Activity One: Is Leadership Important?

- Provide at least two decks of playing cards for this activity.
- Split students into groups of 3-5, and give each group a deck of playing cards.
- Students are to use the cards to create a structure that is at least three cards tall. They can only use the playing cards (no tape, staples, or other props), and they can't bend or cut the cards.
- Here's the trick: in some groups, appoint a leader. In other groups, make clear that giving orders or suggestions to others of any kind is absolutely forbidden. If a student starts giving orders or suggestions (i.e., being a leader) to any other student, make the group start over from the beginning.
- They have three minutes to build their structure (feel free to alter the time if necessary). Go. (Note: Feel free to make this a race if you'd like).
- When the time is up, or everyone is done, discuss the activity. Presumably, the groups with leaders had an easier time than groups without leaders.
- Point out that we need leadership to function properly. We need a king. Without a king, we each do our own thing (point 1), and we very well may not pass judgment (i.e., having a structure built after three minutes). Likewise, we need King Jesus to give us direction.

Activity Two: Would you rather...?

- Inform the group that they are going to play "Would You Rather?" Give students two scenarios, and allow them to choose which they'd rather do. Guide students to go to one side of the room for option A and the other side of the room for option B.
- Start with some fun, random, off-the-wall would-you-rathers. For example:
 - Would you rather be a wizard or a ninja?
 - Would you rather drink vinegar straight or eat cayenne pepper?
 - Would you rather undergo the zombie apocalypse or world-wide alien invasion?
 - Would you rather fight a dinosaur with only a stick or be taken up into an alien ship for study?

- Let a few students from each side explain why they'd rather do one option over the other.
- Then move into some leader would-you-rathers:
 - You'll have an end-of-year exam to determine whether or not you go to the next grade. Would you rather be in a class with no teacher (where you figure it all out yourself but have no homework or quizzes) or a class with a teacher with traditional grading?
 - You're on a team of incredibly gifted athletes. You have a good chance of making it to the Super Bowl/World Series/World Cup. Would you rather go without a coach but with high pay for the season, or have a coach by get paid less?
 - You're in a military unit in active combat. You've escaped a prisoner-of-war camp and are about to cross a raging river, but there is one too many of you for the boat. One of you must stay behind and face the advancing enemy. Once you cross the river, you still have about fifty miles of enemy territory to cross before you reach a safe zone. Would you rather the commanding officer stay behind, or would you rather a private stay behind?
 - You're on a cooking show contest that has multiple teams competing against one another. Would you rather have a master chef to guide you, but have less quality ingredients, or would you rather have the best ingredients available, but no master chef to guide you?
- Debrief the options afterward. Point out that there are many priceless benefits from having a leader. The consequences of not having one can be bad. Connect your debrief to the three points of the lesson. We need a king, too. We need Jesus!

:: CONVEY ::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points one and three of the lesson.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

:: COLLIDE ::

See Leader Guide