

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Our Hope for Life's Battles

I Samuel 17:20-31

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

²⁸ His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." ²⁹ David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." ³⁰ He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way; and the people answered him again as before. ³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. I Samuel 17:28-31

DISCUSSION

On Christ the King Sunday, the final day of the Christian year in the church, we as Christians proudly proclaim the blessings of God's rule over the earth. The words in I Samuel mark years of significant political change, and the Israelites pleading with God for a king to combat the constant threats presented to them.

Humanity has been fascinated with royalty since the beginning of time. And even though royalty is synonymous with tyranny, tragedy, and slavery, we not only obsess over it, but create and crown our own kings. As Jill told us, "if we reject the true King, we will define another king for ourselves." The message of Christianity is that there is only one true king.

When we move away from Jesus, it is because we are tempted to think we are in control of our own destiny. At what times in your life have you created your "own kings" and rejected Jesus, the true King? How have you been able to steer yourself back on course, and why are the memories of how you found your way back so important to remember?

Just as David's brother Eliab belittles him in verse 28, those who know us best can be the most negative voices in our own lives. As Jill said, we all live by narratives which shape who we are and we can easily be lured by the desire to please others above ourselves.

Can you identify the anxiety-driven forces that you carry which are put upon you by others? With all the forces working in our lives, how can we seek the wisdom necessary to help us make better decisions? How has community been a part of helping you to learn and grow in Christ?

David, unlike Israel, was able to see God's powerful and unexpected resources in the heat of the battle. We are drawn to David because we are so much like the Israelites, living in fear, not able to face our enemies on our own.

How can knowing that God sent an advocate who fights for us every day of our lives change where we place Jesus in our every day story? Knowing that we need and are built for a king in our lives, how can we look for ways to encounter Christ the King during this Advent season?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we celebrate and give thanks for You, our one sovereign King. Help us to see You more clearly and remember your faithfulness, as we proclaim the blessings of your rule over the earth. Amen.

