



Unit 27 | Session 4

# JESUS IS OUR PERFECT KING

## Colossians 1

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. Jesus conquered sin and death and reigns as King over all.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

### KEY PASSAGE:

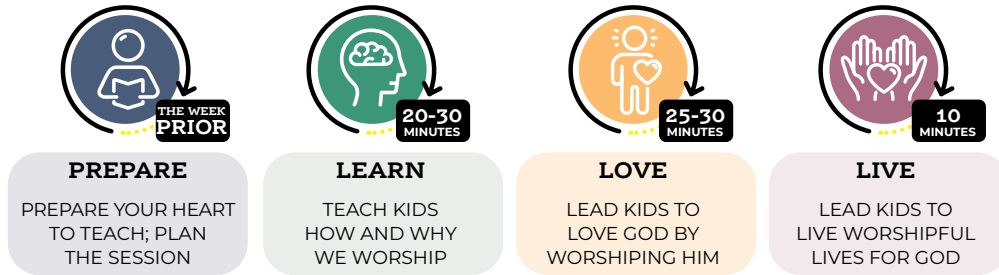
Revelation 5:13

### EXPECTED RESPONSE:

Encouragement



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

## LEADER Bible Study

Our study of God’s Word brings us to Paul’s letter to the Colossians. In it, he emphasizes the sovereignty of Jesus as the image of the invisible God through whom all things were made. In this week’s session, we will focus on the truth that submitting to Jesus leads to Him forming us into the people He created us to be. We do not come into Jesus’ presence and leave unchanged. Read Colossians 1 and consider the following ideas as you prepare to teach.

**Paul encouraged believers to remember what is true about the gospel.** Paul knew the Colossian church needed to remember the foundation of their faith: that Jesus died for their sin and was raised to life to set them free. Paul’s words offered encouragement to the young church and gave them confidence in their salvation.

**Jesus’ resurrection paved the way for us to have life with God.** Jesus’ death paid the price for our sin, and it is through His resurrection that we have hope for eternity with God. In his letter to the Romans, Paul said that if we have died with Christ, we will also live with Him. Death no longer has a hold on us because Jesus has conquered the

grave. He is our pathway through death to eternal life.

**Our faith impacts how we live now and for eternity.** Knowing and believing what is true about God and ourselves changes how we live. Unlike the oppressive rulers of the world, Jesus’ reign is liberating. He sets us free to live as God designed us to live. We are given new hearts so we can experience abundant joy in God’s kingdom today and for eternity.

Paul wrote about some abstract ideas that can be difficult for young kids to grasp. This week guide kids to understand that following Jesus is about much more than going to heaven when they die. God created us to experience His loving presence right now. He invites us to participate in building His kingdom. Help kids see that they too have a role to play in God’s big story!

**DOCTRINE TO KNOW**

**Christ as King:** The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### Countdown

- countdown video

### Worship through Music

- “Jesus Saves,” “Jesus, Our Savior,” or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

### Introduction and Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Tell the Bible Story

- “Jesus Is Our Perfect King” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

### Group Demonstration

- colorful tissue paper
- self-adhesive plastic



### Group Activity

- small balls or beanbags, 10-15

### Respond in Worship

- “This Is the Moment,” “Resurrected,” or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- offering basket or collection box (optional)



### Key Passage

- Key Passage Poster
- “To the Lamb Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13)” song

### Additional Activity

- hula hoops, 10-15



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN through Worship

### 1 COUNTDOWN

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

### 2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Jesus Saves” or “Jesus, Our Savior”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

### 3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)

**SAY** “ Hello, everyone! It’s great to see you all this morning. I’m so thankful to have an opportunity to worship with all of you and continue exploring God’s Word. Let’s get started!

Have you ever written a letter to someone? What was the reason for writing to them? [Allow responses.] Today we’re going to take a look at a letter written almost two thousand years ago. Wow, that’s a long time. Even though this letter was written to people many years ago, there is still a lot that it has to say to us today. This letter was written by Paul, a follower of Jesus. Paul was in prison for telling people about Jesus, but that didn’t stop him from sharing the good news. While he was in prison, Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, and we have this letter as part of the New Testament. It’s now the book of Colossians. Paul wanted to encourage the Christians in Colossae and remind them of what is true about Jesus. Paul helped them see that Jesus is the perfect King. **How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.**

Over the past few weeks, we have explored Jesus’ final days before He died. Last week we learned that Jesus was resurrected three days after He died. What an amazing truth! As we study Paul’s letter to the Colossians, we will find that he encouraged them to understand that Jesus’ resurrection was crucial to them, and us, having eternal life with God. We can be encouraged by these words just as the early believers were when they first heard them. Let’s turn in our Bibles to Colossians 1 and get ready to learn from God’s Word together. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Colossians 1. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in-depth message. You may choose to play the Bible story video “Jesus Is Our Perfect King.” Use bold text to retell or review the story.

### JESUS IS OUR PERFECT KING

“When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, people brought him news about how believers in churches all over the world were doing. Paul had visited many of these churches, and he wrote letters to encourage the Christians in each church.

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossae (koh LAHS sih). The Colossian believers knew the gospel, but false teachers had been telling them lies. This confused them. Some were saying there was a secret gospel only they knew about. Paul wrote to remind them of the truth about Jesus. This is what Paul wrote:

“Jesus shows us what God is like.

The Son of God existed before God created anything.

He created everything—everything in heaven and on earth, everything you see and don’t see; everything exists for Him.

Jesus holds everything together.

The church—all the believers in the world—are the body, and He is the head.

God was happy to send His Son to earth to rescue people from sin through His blood on the cross.”

Paul reminded the believers that their sin had separated them from God. They were His enemies. But now, they had salvation and forgiveness through faith in Jesus.

Paul had told them the complete gospel. Anyone who came and said there was a secret gospel was lying.

“Be encouraged and love one another,” Paul wrote. “I want you to know Jesus. All wisdom and knowledge is found in Him.””

### KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

**Paul encouraged believers to remember what is true about the gospel (Col. 1:1-8):** The church at Colossae knew the gospel, but false teachers had been telling them lies. Paul encouraged them to continue believing the truth.

**Jesus’ resurrection paved the way for us to have life with God (Col. 1:15-20):** Jesus is at the center of the gospel and the only way to life with God is through Him.

**Our faith impacts how we live now and for eternity (Col. 1:21-23):** What we believe about Jesus and the gospel affects every part of our life and the decisions we make.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 5 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God’s Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. The price for sin is death and Jesus was willing to pay that price for us. Have you ever wanted to buy something but you didn’t have quite enough money to cover the cost? [Allow responses.] Well, that’s not the case with Jesus! His death was enough, or sufficient, to pay for our sin. Jesus conquered sin and death and reigns as King over all.

[Choose a volunteer to read Colossians 1:18.] In this verse, Paul tells us that Jesus was the first to be resurrected from the dead through the power of God. Jesus paved the way for us to be raised too! When we give our lives to Jesus, He brings us out of spiritual death into life with God. It might sound strange, but the Bible tells us that before we become a follower of Jesus we are actually dead in our sin. This doesn’t mean physically dead, but spiritually dead. Coming to Jesus means coming to life! ”

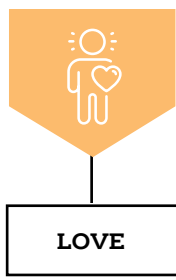
### 6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Draw a heart on a piece of self-adhesive plastic and cut it out. Tear colorful tissue paper into smaller pieces. Invite a few volunteers to come to the front. Instruct them to attach the pieces of tissue paper to the heart.

**SAY** “ These pieces of tissue paper are nice all by themselves, but when we put them all together on the heart, it created something really beautiful. What did we use to hold it all together? [Allow responses.] That’s right, the sticky plastic kept the tissue paper pieces on the heart. What if we had just put the tissue paper on normal paper? [Allow responses.] Would that have done the job? Nope, eventually the tissue paper pieces would fall right off the heart. We needed the adhesive to keep it all together to make a piece of art.

Let’s think back to our story. In Paul’s letter, he told the Colossians what holds all of creation together. Do you remember what he said? [Choose a volunteer to read Colossians 1:15-17.] Jesus created all things and is the One who holds all of creation together. Apart from Jesus, there would be no creation. He is sustaining everything that He has made. He is even keeping you alive right this very minute! God is the One who keeps our hearts pumping and lungs breathing. We need Him for our very existence.

**Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.** God is pleased with creation and desires to see His people flourish. He has given us life and has made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him. Just think about that for a moment. We have the opportunity to know the God who created the entire universe! He cares about our lives and wants to bless us. This is incredible! How can we have this kind of life with God? [Allow responses.] That’s right, when we put our faith in Jesus, He brings us near to God the Father who invites us to participate in life in His kingdom. ”



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE with Worship

### 1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. The church in Colossae was encouraged when they read Paul's letter. He reminded them of the truth of the gospel. He helped them understand that Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings. We can be encouraged when we read God's Word. There may be other responses or feelings you have as well. Help kids think about and describe other feelings—such as a desire for wisdom or confident in their salvation—they may have. Provide a safe place for kids to discuss emotions, and remind kids that their feelings are real and valid, even if they don't match what others feel.
2. Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories? Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt encouraged, wise, confident, or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
3. Can you think of any hurtful or destructive ways we might use those feelings? It is good for us to be confident in our salvation. But taken to the extreme this could mean that we fail to recognize our sin for what it is, believing that no matter what we do, Jesus will forgive us. This is a misuse of grace, and it dishonors Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. When we follow Jesus, He gives us a desire to obey God with the knowledge that even when we fall short, we are still safe in His arms.
4. Can you think of any helpful or constructive ways we might use those feelings? Understanding what is true about God is encouraging, because we begin to see the bigger picture of who God is, how He is working within His creation, and what part we have to play in God's story. As we grow in our love for God, we can step out in faith and share the gospel with others. We can participate in the work God is doing.

After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to re-gather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

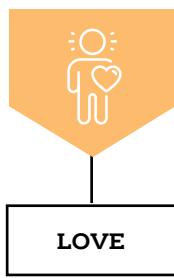
### 2 GROUP ACTIVITY: TRANSFORMATION TAG (5–10 min.)

**SAY** “ Trusting in Jesus means that our lives are forever changed. Let's play a game to help us understand this idea better. ”

Prior to the session, mark off squares on opposite ends of the room with painter's tape. Choose one kid to be *It*. Place all the balls in the middle of the play area. Explain that the kids must try to get all the balls to the square on one side of the room. When someone is tagged, that kid then starts trying to get the balls to the square on the opposite side of the room. Continue until everyone has been tagged, then play another round with a new kid playing as *It*.

**SAY** “ Well done! When you were tagged, your goal in the game changed. Let's think back to our story and consider what this teaches us about life with Jesus. ”

[Choose a volunteer to read Colossians 3:1-3.] In these verses, Paul tells us that when we belong



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

to Jesus our lives look different than people who don't follow Him. Paul encourages us to focus our hearts and minds on the way Jesus calls us to live. As Christians, our faith impacts every part of our lives. Following Jesus means that we choose to forgive people when they wrong us rather than seeking revenge. Following Jesus means that we can persevere with hope even when we go through hard times. Following Jesus means that we turn away from sin and temptation because we love God and want to obey Him. What are some other ways that following Jesus might change how you live? [Allow responses.]

Having faith in Jesus is not merely a golden ticket to heaven. We can look forward to eternity with God, but He also has a plan and purpose for our lives here and now. **Jesus is our perfect King because He perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.** Jesus invites us to participate in building God's kingdom now, even as we look forward to the day when we will see Jesus face to face. ”

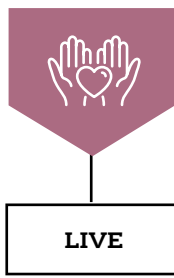
### 3 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “This Is the Moment” or “Resurrected”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

**SAY** “ Paul’s letter is so encouraging and gives us confidence to follow Jesus even when we experience hard times. God wants us to know what is true about Him and ourselves. That’s why He has given us His Word. We can respond to Him with praise and worship because of His great love for us and the grace He has shown us. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, we are set free from our sin, and through His resurrection we are promised new life with God forever. Let’s worship God together! ”

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** in Worship

#### **1 KEY PASSAGE** (5 min.)

**SAY** “ In our key passage, all of creation is praising the One on the throne of heaven. God is on the throne! We are learning that Jesus is our perfect King who rules over the universe as the King of kings. He is our good King, and we can trust that He wants what is best for us. We can come to Jesus, knowing that He will help us follow Him and live in a way that honors Him! ”

Read Revelation 5:13 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, “To the Lamb Forever and Ever (Revelation 5:13).”

#### **2 APPLICATION** (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenges from the previous session. (Draw or write about something that gives you a sense of wonder; consider the ways that Jesus is changing your heart.) Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

**SAY** “ We have talked today about how Jesus changes our lives when we begin following Him. Our faith isn’t just a box to check and forget until we get to heaven. No way! Jesus wants us to live for Him every day. And that’s why we do our weekly challenges. We want to practice living out what we believe to be true about God and ourselves. Let’s try these two things this week. ”

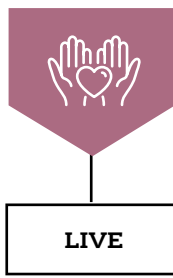
1. Paul wrote a letter to the Colossians to encourage them in their faith. He wanted them to remember what is true about God and themselves. Write a letter to someone you care about encouraging them to follow Jesus. Consider sharing something you have learned from our session today.
2. It’s important for us to know and believe the truth about God. The Bible tells us that we will hear many false messages from the world and people around us. In order to know what is true we need to keep studying God’s Word. Choose your favorite Bible story or passage of Scripture and read it this week. Ask God to give you wisdom to understand what you read.

**SAY** “ Can you do those things to worship God this week? [Allow responses.] Awesome! I can’t wait to hear how it goes! ”

#### **3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (2 min.)

**SAY** “ Father, thank You for inviting us to participate in the work of building Your kingdom here and now. We are excited about the ways our hearts and lives are changing because of our faith in Christ. Help us love You more each day and learn how to live in ways that bring You glory. Amen. ”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pick-up, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

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#### HULA HOOP ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

Set up a winding path of hula hoops throughout the room. Create two groups and instruct them to line up on opposite ends of the hula hoop path. The first two kids will begin hopping on one foot toward each other through the path until they meet in the middle. Both kids will say the big picture question and answer. Then they will play a round of rock, paper, scissors. The loser will return to the end of their line, and the winner will continue hopping as the next kid in line starts out to meet them. Continue playing until every kid has a chance to go through the path.

**SAY** “**How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings. [Choose a volunteer to read Colossians 1:15-17.]** In his letter, Paul tells us that Jesus has always existed, and it was through Jesus that all things were made. He has authority over all of creation. He rules and reigns over all as a good and faithful King. As Christians, we submit our lives to Him. That means we do what He tells us to do. If Jesus is a good king, do you think we can trust Him? **[Allow responses.]** Of course! Jesus will never tell us to do something that isn't ultimately for our good and His glory. He helps us obey Him by giving us a desire to serve Him.”