

What Was Jesus's Last Name? Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To brainstorm and discuss one practical way we can follow King Jesus in our daily lives this week.

Sermon Refresher: When we think about Jesus, we often think about him as our savior rather than our king. The term Christ wasn't Jesus's last name, but an honorific title given to him by the early Christians which designated him as king. Jesus is the king that Psalm 2 has always pointed toward. And even though earthly rulers have consistently failed their people, we can trust that king Jesus will never fail us or abuse his power. King Jesus is the king our hearts long for and the only ruler worthy of our allegiance.

Icebreakers: Think about your favorite ruler or leader from a movie or book. What is it about that leader that caused others to follow them?

Discussion:

1. Read through Psalm 2:1-6 out loud as a group. Compare and contrast the nations and their earthly kings to King Jesus. What do you notice? What is different about the two?

Psalm 2:1-6

- ¹ Why are the nations so angry?
Why do they waste their time with futile plans?
- ² The kings of the earth prepare for battle;
the rulers plot together against the LORD
and against his anointed one.
- ³ "Let us break their chains," they cry,
"and free ourselves from slavery to God."

THE **crossing** **small groups**

⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs.
The Lord scoffs at them.

⁵ Then in anger he rebukes them,
terrifying them with his fierce fury.

⁶ For the Lord declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne
in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain."

2. While Jesus was on earth, he demonstrated to us what kind of king he is through his words and actions. Drawing from Jesus' words and actions as recorded in the Gospels, what do you appreciate most about who Jesus is as king?

3. If we are honest, we've all desired at some point to be our own rulers and break free from the rule of King Jesus in certain parts of our lives. We feel like God's commands and laws are like shackles. When you've gone down that path, what has been the result?

4. We know that it is good to engage in public life, to vote, and to be informed about elections and policies. But if we are not careful, we can easily fall into the trap of putting our hope in earthly rulers rather than King Jesus. Considering the cultural and political moment we find ourselves in right now, how do we engage in public life while carefully assigning our allegiance to King Jesus? Brainstorm some good principles that we Christians could adopt and practice to help us engage in politics but also firmly keep our allegiance to King Jesus.

5. Read Matthew 16:13-16 together out loud.

Matthew 16:13–16

[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” [14] And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” [15] He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” [16] Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (ESV)

Continuously throughout our lives, we will need to answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” Based on your recent actions and words, who do you say that Jesus is? Is he your king? Or, would you prefer him as an advice-giver or cosmic vending machine? Do you see him as present and in control of our world or has he taken a vacation? Discuss your answer with the group.

6. When we think about Jesus as king we sometimes think in terms of the big picture without remembering that Jesus is king over our daily lives as well. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate our allegiance to King Jesus in our daily lives this week?

Sharing and Prayer:

We are all experiencing added levels of stress, anxiety and fear during this season. It is important to remind each other about what is true and good about King Jesus. Share one aspect of who Jesus is that you need to remind yourself of this week. Spend time praying for each other and thanking God that he has placed Jesus as the king of the world and that one day he will come back and make everything right.