

2B.8 KINGDOM OF GOD: RESOURCE SHEET 1

WHAT KIND OF KING WAS JESUS?

Here is a list of qualities some kings might exhibit. Which were Jesus' qualities?

A GOOD KING IS:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strong | <input type="checkbox"/> A great soldier | <input type="checkbox"/> Decisive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongminded | <input type="checkbox"/> Wise | <input type="checkbox"/> Likely to be crucified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerful | <input type="checkbox"/> A lawgiver | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard on his enemies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Generous | <input type="checkbox"/> Unselfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard on himself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loving | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayerful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Always in charge | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commanding | <input type="checkbox"/> A good team leader | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful | <input type="checkbox"/> Authoritative | |

Write some agreed lists of characteristics: 'A good king is...' and 'Jesus was...'.

Compare them.

A GOOD KING IS:

JESUS WAS:

Did Jesus rewrite the rules for what makes a good king?

Find some Christian songs from the Christian community which speak of Jesus as a king.

What kind of king, and what kind of kingdom, these Christian songs present?

2B.8 KINGDOM OF GOD: RESOURCE SHEET 2

WHAT KIND OF KING? WHAT KIND OF KINGDOM?

This well-known song was written in 1963 by Sydney Carter, using the tune from the American Shaker song, 'Simple Gifts' (1848).

I DANCED IN THE MORNING ('LORD OF THE DANCE')

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe
And the Pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John –
They came with me
And the Dance went on.
Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.
Refrain

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black –
It's hard to dance
With the Devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.
Refrain

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you live in me –
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.
Refrain

Sydney Carter (1915–2004)

For Christians, this song expresses the excitement of a life following Jesus, who is not a king with a crown and lots of laws to keep, but a leader who makes people want to dance!

2B.8 KINGDOM OF GOD: RESOURCE SHEET 3

WHAT KIND OF KING? WHAT KIND OF KINGDOM?

'DOWN TO EARTH' BY STEPHEN FISCHBACHER

He could have been born in a royal palace
and called 'Your majesty',
worn a crown of diamonds
and lived in luxury,
but he was born in a dirty stable
and laid on a bed of hay,
not too many welcomed him
on the very first Christmas Day

CHORUS:

He is down to earth, He is down to earth.
The one who changed the world forever
is down to earth

He could have been friends with rich and famous
with big celebrities, had anything he wanted
living as he pleased,
but he made friends with the poor folks
with the sick and with the lame,
he helped them with their problems
and he called them all by name

He could have been full of his importance
and felt so very grand
his servants would have bowed and said
"Your wish is my command"
but he wore a crown of thorns, gave everything he had
he gave his life that we might know
the great love of his dad

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For Christians, the key significance of this song is that it gives three verses on the birth, life and death of Jesus, which see him as human and humane. He changed the world forever (as God's incarnate Son), but he did this by connecting the kingdom of God to ordinary people – the opposite of how we usually see royalty.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.