

Your Kingdom Come December 8 | Group Guide

### Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Take a few moments to begin your group time together with this prayer:

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Pray also for your group time together.

## Read Matthew 1:6-11 (5 minutes).

6 David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

### Introduction and questions about Matthew 1:6-11 (25 minutes)

In the book of Matthew, Jesus not only shows us what the Kingdom of heaven is like, he teaches us to pray: "Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven." We want the love of heaven to come to earth, the wisdom of heaven to come to earth, the joy of heaven to come to earth, the abundance of heaven to earth, the King of heaven to come to earth!

In this series, we hope to not only learn more about Jesus, but also to learn to become more and more like Jesus, seeing his Kingdom come in our lives, our city, and our community.

Questions about the Scripture:

Look at the list of kings in Matthew 1:6-11. Assign each person in your group 1-2 kings to look up. Spend a few moments looking up in your Bible's a little bit of information about each king of Israel. For some you'll find some good things, for others some bad things, and for some both. Then, after a few minutes, allow space for people to share what they learned about each king.

David: 2 Samuel 7:8–16 Solomon: 1 Kings 3:5–14 Rehoboam: 1 Kings 12:1–17 Abijah: 2 Chronicles 13:4–12 Asa: 2 Chronicles 14:2–7 Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 20:5–12 Jehoram: 2 Chronicles 21:4–7 Uzziah: 2 Chronicles 26:3–5 Jotham: 2 Chronicles 27:2–6 Ahaz: 2 Chronicles 28:1–5 Hezekiah: 2 Chronicles 29:1–11 Manasseh: 2 Chronicles 33:10–13 Amon: 2 Chronicles 33:21–23 Josiah: 2 Chronicles 34:29–33 Jeconiah (Jehoiachin): 2 Kings 24:8–12

- From all that you've heard about Israel's kings, what would you say are good qualities/actions a king should be striving for? What are bad qualities/actions they should avoid?
- Based what you know of Jesus, how does he compare and contrast to the kings of Israel?

#### Break into smaller groups for sermon discussion (25 minutes).

In groups of 3-4, reflect on the following questions:

- Reflect on how you've grown in your surrender to King Jesus over the years. In what places can you see things you've submitted to him? Share one or two of those with your group.
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to submit to Jesus as King? How can you submit to his reign more fully?
- How does the experience of Israel "waiting" for the true King resonate with you? Do you feel like you're in a season of waiting? Do you find it hard to wait? Explain.
- Where do you see evidence of the heavenly Kingdom breaking into your life or the world around you?
- What aspects of God's heavenly Kingdom do you long to see more fully realized in your community or relationships?

# Conclude with prayer requests and then the following prayer to end the night (5 minutes).

Share prayer requests and pray for one another. Then, pray the following prayer:

O God of all the prophets, you herald the coming of the Son of Man by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth. Guard our hearts from despair so that we, in the company of the faithful and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may be found ready to raise our heads at the coming near of our redemption, the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.