FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"God chose you to tell about the wonderful things He has done. He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9b***

Big Idea: ***God calls His people because He loves.***

Bible Story: Israel Asks for a King | 1 Samuel 8, 16

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Bingo Style

What you'll need: No supplies needed

How to Play:

- Leaders say a portion of the memory verse out loud. ***"He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."*** Invite the kids to say it with you all together.
- Next leave out the first word and replace it with a clap. ***"__ called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."***
- Continue by leaving out the first two words and replacing them with claps. ***"__ __ you out of darkness into His wonderful light."***
- Keep going until the verse is all claps!

Bible Time – Find the Kings

What you'll need: Bibles

How to play:
Scouts (K-2): Help kids find 1 Kings and 2 Kings in their Bibles and talk about why there were many kings in the Old Testament.

Navigators (3-5): Lead the kids in a discussion about the positives of the Old Testament kings and the negatives.

Get-To-Know-You Game – Heart Check Circle Time

What you'll need: No supplies needed

How to Play: Have the kids sit in small groups and do a little check-in with them.

Ask questions like:

- "What makes someone kind?"
- "What would God see in your heart?"
- "How can we share what's in our hearts with others?"
- "What makes someone brave?"

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Hey KXP! Today we are talking about kings. That's right! We're talking crowns, thrones, and royal subjects. But first I want to remind you of our Big Idea.* ***God calls His people because He loves.*** *We have been learning about the Faithful Followers that God called to be a part of Jesus' story. God's Big Rescue Plan was already in action in the Old Testament - long before Jesus was born."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Israel Asks for a King | 1 Samuel 8, 16

Let's begin today's true story from the Bible in the book of 1 Samuel. In this time, the people of Israel wanted a king. The other nations around them had kings so they wanted one to lead and protect them. They were a little jealous. As the prophet Samuel got older, he let his sons help lead Israel. But there was a problem. They were dishonest, took bribes, and didn't make fair decisions. The people didn't trust them.

The leaders demanded a king. This upset Samuel and he prayed to God. In Chapter 8, verse 7 says ***"And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.'"*** God had been leading the Israelites all along, but they wanted someone they could see with their very own eyes. God was their One, True King but they didn't always recognize Him as King.

God told Samuel to let the people have the king they wanted but there was a warning. Samuel told the people what a king would do. A king would take their sons to be soldiers and their daughters to work for him. A king would take their best fields and crops. He would even take their money. This king they wanted so badly would have a lot of power and things wouldn't feel fair.

Even after hearing the warning, the people still wanted a king they could see. The Israelites didn't always trust God as their king. They wanted to be like every other nation, and they also wanted a king to lead them in battles. You see – God's people had it all wrong. Battles, wars, and earthly kings couldn't keep God's promises to the Israelites. Only God could keep His promises. Even when His people chose something that wasn't best for them, God stayed involved and continued to guide them.

God told Samuel that a man named Saul would be Israel's first king. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin and looked very impressive—tall, strong, and handsome. Samuel secretly poured oil on Saul's head, anointing him, to show God had chosen him as king.

Later, Saul was publicly chosen as king in front of the people. They were pleased. Saul looked like what the people imagined a king should look like and act like. And Saul started off as a pretty good king but later disobeyed God. Remember God had warned them.

Later, God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to choose a new king. Jesse showed his older, stronger sons first, but God said no to each one. The youngest son, David, was out taking care of sheep. When David arrived, God said ***"This is the one."*** Samuel anointed David with oil, and God's Spirit came powerfully on him. Chapter 16, verse 7 says ***"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*** David had a kind, faithful, and brave heart.

Let's look at these two kings. God chose both men to be king but they each treated that honor differently. God's people wanted Saul to be king for the way he looked. But Saul wanted to do some things his own way and disobeyed God. David was chosen by God because of his heart. He was a young shepherd boy who wanted to follow God and be faithful to Him. Both kings were important in God's Big Story, but can you guess which one became the greatest king that Israel ever had?! You're exactly right – David!

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"David faithfully followed God. And David is a relative of Jesus. He is in Jesus' family tree. God promised that the Savior of the world would be from Jesse's family. David was Jesse's son. That is incredible! Thanks for joining me! I can't wait to hear more about David's story next week. I think it's one you might be familiar with. Here's a hint – it involves an extremely tall man. See you guys!"*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **God Sees My Heart**

What you'll need: construction paper cut into the shape of hearts, crayons, markers

What to do:

- Fold the heart in half
- On the outside of the heart, draw how people might see you (your smile, clothes, hair…)
- On the inside of the heart, draw/write qualities God sees (talking with a friend/kindness, helping pick up toys at home/helpful, telling your family about Jesus/brave)

***God cares most about what's inside our hearts and how we show those qualities to the world and the people around us.**

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.