

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
NOVEMBER 22, 2015
LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—CHRIST THE KING



Can you color this picture to make it look like a stained glass window?

Today is **Christ the King Sunday**, the last Sunday of the season of Pentecost and of the church year. Today we celebrate that Jesus is our King. Jesus is the kind of King who doesn't want gold and power and treasure, but who wants our hearts and love. He is a King who wants to give everything that is good to his people.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

What is a king?

Earthly kings are absolute rulers: they might take power by leading armies into war against other countries and don't always act in the best interests of their people. They might be kind and wise, or they might be selfish, jealous, or cruel. There are kings, military rulers and dictators that rule in other countries across the world. The people in those countries are dependent upon that one person for the kind of country they will have. Of course, we don't have kings in our country, our founding fathers and mothers realized that being led by a king—who might be a true servant leader, or who might just as well be a cruel despot—wasn't the best way to design a country.

What kind of powerful leaders do we have in our country?

We may not have a king, but we do have other leaders who exert power in our lives—perhaps they are national policy makers, CEOs or advertising directors. Each in their different way they use their position, power and influence to create a world that they want. That world may be good, just and kind—or it may not. Parents, guardians and family members are often placed in a difficult position between the “world's view” and our understanding of what God wants for us and for our families. Day after day we are called to make decisions about what we do, say, buy, promote, and believe—and there are many people who would tell us how to live their way. We are called to hold up Jesus as our guide for how rulers, leaders, and decision-makers should be. We should look at what Jesus wants for the world and for us and compare it to what other powerful or influential people want for us. “What would Jesus do?” “How would Jesus rule?” “Is this what Jesus wants for me?” “Is this what Jesus wants for my children?” We are called to make decisions on *our values and our vision for the world*.

We proclaim that Jesus is King—and we believe it. However, as you well know, we live in a world where evil, selfishness and cruelty seem to win. We are called to live with Jesus as our guide in the here and now, and we are also promised that someday Jesus will truly reign in power and love over the whole world. In the meantime, we have faith, we count our blessings and we keep asking “how can I be the leader that Jesus wants me to be?”

Dinner Table Conversation:

Talk about Christ the King Sunday.

Have each family member complete the sentence, “If I were king...”

Talk about the kind of world you'd create with Jesus as your King.