



Jesus fulfils the promise God made to Abraham and to David. He is the promised king, uniquely blessed under God's rule and spreading it to the world. Through him, God establishes his kingdom. Jesus publicly announces the kingdom and powerfully brings it from heaven to earth. He teaches a surprising message about what the kingdom is like. He is a surprising king who suffers, dies and rises again. Jesus re-invites us to join in with the original plan for the world by joining in with him.

Video Summary

Jesus fulfils the promise made to Abraham's family. He is blessed under God's rule, enjoying the benefits and fulfilling the responsibilities in a way that no-one else has. He is a human like no other. He will be a blessing and spread God's rule to the world.

Jesus fulfils the promise made to David's family. He will do what humans are meant to do — join in with what God is doing, reflect and represent God. He will be the kind of king that God is and rule in the way that God rules. He is a king like no other. He will build God a place to live. He will bring about God's kingdom, a kingdom God himself will permanently establish.

During his public life, Jesus announces the arrival of God's kingdom and brings it from heaven to earth. He knows who he is and what he's doing. He preaches with authority and demonstrates supernatural power to bring beauty, life and light into the lives of the people around him.

The kingdom has a surprising message. The responsibilities are surprisingly heavy: total submission from the deepest part of who we are. The benefits are surprisingly high: a new level of connection and closeness to God is available, calling him 'our Father'. It is an upside-down kingdom, that looks small and weak but has disproportionate influence and value.

The kingdom has a surprising king. Jesus says he will suffer and die. Jesus bans the disciples from telling others that he is the promised king because their idea of victory is so different from the apparent defeat Jesus predicts. The cross is how Jesus will establish God's kingdom.

Jesus dies on a cross. He allows the Snake to bite his heel, and in doing so he crushes the Snake's head. When a holy God meets sinful people, we're overwhelmed and our existence is threatened. Jesus chooses to be overwhelmed instead of us. He is our mediator — he puts himself between us and God. He sacrifices himself to take our sin, our snake-hearted instincts, our chaos, death and darkness. He takes the consequences of us rejecting God as king. He is disconnected and distanced from God for us.

Three days later, Jesus comes back to life. His resurrection is proof of victory. He has crushed the Snake in the world and the Snake in our hearts. He has saved us from our enemies and from ourselves. He has rescued us from powers we couldn't control, pulled us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light and brought us back home. He renews connection and closeness with God to give us life as it's supposed to be.

Jesus reinvites us to join in with the original plan for the world. He turns chaos into beauty, emptiness and death into life, and darkness into light. He announces the good news that God's kingdom has arrived. He invites us to be part of expanding and spreading God's kingdom to everyone everywhere.

Discussion Questions

- 1** In what ways does Jesus fulfill the promise God made to Abraham? In what ways does Jesus fulfill the promise God made to David?
- 2** What stories can you think of where Jesus demonstrates supernatural power to bring beauty, life and light into the lives of the people around him?
- 3** What kind of king and what kind of victory were the disciples expecting? How does Jesus' victory in the upside-down kingdom challenge those expectations? In what ways might our own ideas of success and strength be out of line with his?
- 4** What aspects of Jesus' victory through his death and resurrection stand out to you? Which ways of understanding is more or less familiar to you? What is surprising? What aspects would you like to explore more?
- 5** Where in your world do you see chaos, emptiness, or darkness? How might Jesus be calling you to join in with his work there?

Bible Passages for Further Study

Matthew 1:1-17 — Jesus is introduced as a son of Abraham and a son of David

Matthew 4:17-25 — Jesus begins his ministry by announcing the arrival of God's kingdom

Matthew 13:1-52 — Teaching about the surprising nature of the kingdom

Matthew 16:13-28 — The disciples recognise Jesus is the promised king but are shocked by his prediction of suffering and death



Matthew 28:16-20 — Jesus reinvites his followers to join in with the original plan for the world