



## Faith Talk Ideas

# King of Heaven: The (Un)expected King

In our passage this week Jesus begins his ministry by calling disciples and ministering to the needs of suffering people. He begins to attract great numbers of people drawn to the miracles and perhaps even the message he proclaims, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Jesus, the Son of God, is ushering in a new age as the kingdom of God comes to earth.

**READ TOGETHER:** Matthew 4:12-25

**THINK TOGETHER:** Think about all the ways that Jesus continues to reveal the purpose of his coming in surprising ways. For those who thought the Messiah would immediately defeat the enemies of God's people and restore an earthly kingdom, they were likely surprised by his focus on healing the sick. For those who thought he would surround himself with learned men from the synagogue, they were surprised to find him surrounded by skilled fishermen and eventually, even an evil tax collector.

**DO TOGETHER:** Notice the first thing Jesus does as he begins his ministry is to call others to follow him. It was a normal thing in Jesus' time for young men to request a rabbi to mentor them. The disciple would spend a large amount of time following their rabbi and learning from him. Jesus is the one who calls his disciples and they leave their livelihoods and families to follow him.

What do Jesus' miracles tell us about him? Talk together about the miracles including the words Matthew uses to describe the scale of his miracles. How do they illustrate both his love for people and his deity?

Jesus calls his first disciples at the beginning of his ministry. Read Matthew 28:16-20 aloud. What does he instruct his disciples to do as he ends his earthly ministry? That call is the mission of the church until he comes again!

How will you disciple your children this year? Talk about habits you plan to engage in to disciple your children in the faith. I encourage you to read the article on The Gospel Coalition website entitled, "Someone Will Catechize Your Kids in 2021. Don't Outsource It" by Collin Hansen. Visit [thegospelcoalition.org/article/catechize-kids/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/article/catechize-kids/) to take a look. He offers both compelling reasons to engage regularly with your children along with practical tips on how to do it.

How will you disciple others in the faith this year? God delights to use his people in the mission of making disciples! Consider how you might engage with a friend or neighbor who is interested in learning more about the faith or growing as a Christ follower.

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Pray for opportunities to share the gospel this week. Ask God to give your family a heart for sharing the gospel and helping others grow in the faith.