

Key Question

What kind of King is Jesus?

Key Concepts

Parables of Jesus	Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of God. These suggest that God's rule has begun through the life, teaching and example of Jesus, and subsequently through the lives of Christians who live in obedience to God.
The Kingdom of God	The Kingdom of God is, in essence, where God rules – not a geographical territory, but in human hearts and minds, lives and communities.
Who is included?	The Kingdom is compared to a feast where all are invited to join in; not everyone chooses to do so. God's extends a gracious welcome to all of humanity, but this is not always well received: selfishness or greed can get in the way of spiritual life and of the coming of God's Kingdom.
Christians today	Many Christians try to extend the Kingdom of God by challenging unjust social structures in their locality and in the world.

Key People

Jesus	God incarnate. Often referred to in the Gospel as 'Rabbi', meaning 'teacher.'
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John	Disciples of Jesus and authors of the Gospel. The Gospels are eye-witness accounts of the people who lived and spoke with Jesus.
Christians	A disciple or follower of Jesus.

Key Vocabulary

1	Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
2	Obedience	Compliance with an order, request or law; submitting to another's authority.
3	Heaven	A place regarded as the home of God and the angels and of the good after death.
4	Kingdom	The spiritual reign or authority of God.
5	Community	The condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interest in common.
7	Significance	The meaning to be found in words or events.
8	Forgive	To stop feeling angry or resentful towards someone.

Key Bible Passages

Luke 14: 12 – 14	Parable of 'The Feast'. Jesus implies a welcome to anyone not too proud to join the feast of the Kingdom of God.
Matthew 21: 33 – 46	Parable of 'The Tenants in the Vineyard'. Suggests that God is patient in waiting for people to turn to him but that the opportunity will not last forever.
Matthew 18: 21 – 35	Parable of 'The Unforgiving Servant'. Those who have themselves been much forgiven by God should then become like God, willing to forgive others generously.