

the upside down King



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Purpose

To discover how an upside-down king came to set the world right-side-up.

Decoration

Lots of things turned upside down/ back to front/ inside out. For example:

- Clock upside down
- Pulpit at back of room
- Banners upside down
- Congregation on platform
- Chairs on the tables
- Bright colours – Mad Hatters Tea Party
- Colourful display of Easter eggs
- A 'throne' facing the back wall

You will Need

For the Introduction

Props for a right-side up king (royal robe, gold crown, sceptre, etc.)

- Props for the upside-down King Jesus (torn cloth, crown of thorns, cross, etc.)
- Processional music to play as the king enters
- Sound track of noisy crowd - you can find these online.
For example, <http://soundbible.com/654-Crowd-Boo-And-Heckles.html> OR, prepare members of your congregation to provide sound effects
- People to play 'Jesus' and two speakers

For the Upside-down Images activity

- The six images from the end of this document added into PowerPoint. You can also find them at <https://www.behance.net/gallery/13081309/Jeep-see-whatever-you-want-to-see>

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For the Brainstorm

- Butcher's paper and markers (optional)

For the Short Talk

- Paper and pencils, crayons or markers

For the Craft Activity

- A range of craft materials, stickers, markers, cardboard, staplers, tape etc.. to make crowns OR crown badges
- If you choose to make badges you will need to supply safety pins
- Note: if you are likely to run out of time, make the crowns in advance and allow a short time for decorating them
- For other ideas see the links below

<http://www.bakerross.com.au/foam-crowns-4>

<https://www.cleverpatch.com.au/ideas/details/scratch-board-crown>

<http://riotstores.com.au/item/165734-foamtastic-gold-glitter-crown-5pc.html>

<http://www.artshedonline.com.au/cardstock-crowns-60cm-6pc/>

<http://www.fabhautemama.com/easy-diy-mini-crowns/>

For the praise and worship time

- Choose some songs – for suggestions see <http://www.praisecharts.com/blog/top-100-easter-worship-songs-for-2015/>

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Introduction - Jesus, King of the Jews

SPEAKER 1 ANNOUNCES GRANDLY: Enter! Jesus, King of the Jews

Majestic processional music begins to play as 'Jesus' enters wearing robes and crown, carrying a sceptre

When 'Jesus' is halfway to the front...

SPEAKER 2: Wait a minute, that's not right!

Pause music and freeze procession

SPEAKER 1: Yes, yes that's how it happened. Jesus is the King!

SPEAKER 2: Jesus is the King but that's not how it happened!

SPEAKER 1: No? Well let's try 'take 2'.

Procession rewinds and 'Jesus' backs out

SPEAKER 2: Enter! Jesus, King of the Jews

Jesus enters to cries of the crowd, wearing torn cloth and crown of thorns, carrying the cross – moves to the front, sets down the cross and places the crown of thorns on it.

SPEAKER 1: Soon after Jesus was born, men from faraway travelled to find out more about him. They called him the king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-2). They looked for him in the palace in Jerusalem – but they didn't find him there. He was a king – but not the sort of king that they expected.

SPEAKER 2: Just before his death, people were still calling him a king. They didn't give him a throne to sit on and they didn't worship him. They mocked him and they nailed him to a cross (Matthew 27). They gave him a crown – but it wasn't made of gold.

SPEAKER 1: Jesus is a king – an upside-down king. This upside-down king came to turn the world upside-down – to change the way we think – to change us from the inside out.

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Scripture Reading | Matthew 27:27-37

Upside-down Images Activity

Upside-down images

- Show first image and ask 'Is this a doe or a seal'?
 - ┆ Show second image
- Show third image and ask 'Is this an elephant or a swan'?
 - ┆ Show fourth image
- Show fifth image and ask 'Is this a giraffe or a penguin?'
 - ┆ Show sixth image
- When things are upside-down they can be confusing and hard to understand

Jesus was an upside-down king – he didn't look or act the way that people expected him to so many people were confused and had trouble making sense of the things that he did and the things that he said.

Brainstorm

Divide all members of your congregation into groups and ask them to come up with some responses to these two questions. You might like to provide some butcher's paper and markers. Some examples have been provided.

- How does a normal or right-side-up king rule? OR What does a king do?
 - Gives out orders
 - Expects people to serve him
 - Lives with great wealth
 - Is treated with great respect
- How does an upside-down king rule? OR How did Jesus live?
 - Invites people to join him
 - Serves others
 - Lives a simple life
 - Is treated with little respect

God created all people to worship and serve him and to care for one another. But that's not what always happens in life. We turned things upside-down when we decided to put ourselves first; when we chose greed, selfishness, rage; when we chose not to forgive; when we chose to hate others or to ignore God.

We turn things upside-down every time we make a choice to go against God or to hurt others.

We needed a King – a king who would set things right – a king who would lead us and save us by showing us the right-side-up way of living

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Short Talk – It's all about LOVE

This talk is divided into three short sections- split it up with songs or other activities to help retain everyone's attention

Jesus made statements that turned people's thinking upside down.

Part 1 - Love your enemies

On a piece of paper – in groups or individually - write down the name or draw a picture of someone that you really love.

Tell someone near you one reason why you love that person.

Many people think that it is fair to love the people that are kind to you; the people who take care of you; the people who love you! But listen to what Jesus, the upside-down king said...

You have heard people say, "*Love your neighbours and hate your enemies.*" But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you. **Matthew 5:43-44 (CEV)**

Jesus, the upside-down king, says that life is not about hate – it's about love.

Part 2 - It's not about following the rules

Tell a person near you one rule of your family, school, or workplace.

Why do you choose to follow the rules?

Many people think that as long as we follow the rules we are doing the right thing. But sometimes we follow the rules with the wrong attitude. We might clean our room up by pushing everything under the bed instead of putting it away. We might say 'yes' to the boss but pull a face when she turns her back. We might do our homework but only put in enough effort that we won't get in trouble.

Jesus, the upside-down king spoke to the Pharisees, who were VERY good at following the rules, and this is what he said...

You Pharisees and teachers are in for trouble! You're nothing but show-offs. You're like tombs that have been whitewashed. On the outside they are beautiful, but inside they are full of bones and filth. ²⁸ That's what you are like. Outside you look good, but inside you are evil and only pretend to be good. Matthew 23:27-28 (CEV)

Jesus, the upside-down king, says that life is not about following the rules – it's about love.

Part 3 - It's not about fear

Tell a person near you why you think God sent Jesus into the world.

Many people think that God is out to get bad people. They think that God wants us to be very good and if we are not good then he will punish us.

Jesus, the upside-down king came to the world for a reason but it wasn't to punish us or to cut us off from God...

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God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! John 3:16-17 (CEV)

Jesus, the upside-down king, says that his life is not about cutting people off from God – it's about love.

Conclusion – Craft Activity - An upside-down crown

In your group, make (or decorate) an 'upside-down crown' as you talk about what you have learnt or found interesting today.

Jesus is a king – an upside-down king. This upside-down king came to turn the world upside-down – to change the way we think – to change us from the inside out.

Wear the crown to remind you of the upside-down king this Easter. If someone asks you why you are wearing your crown upside-down, take the opportunity to tell them of Jesus and his love.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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Upside-down Images

Doe or Seal?



Elephant or Swan?



Giraffe or Penguin?



Images from an advertisement for Jeep by Jérôme Gonfond

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/13081309/Jeep-see-whatever-you-want-to-see>