



Leader Guide

Longing for a Hero

December 19, 2021

Main Passage: Luke 24:21; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Theological Theme

Christ is the best of all leaders and heroes. He is a good and mighty King. He is a sacrificial and perfect Priest. He is a bold and truthful Prophet. Jesus Christ faithfully executes all of these roles on behalf of His people.

Introduction

- ❓ How much would you say you know about God? How does a person gain knowledge about God?
- ❓ Do you think it is possible for a person to fully know God? Why or why not?

Because we live in a fallen, sinful world, we long for a leader or a hero to tell us everything is going to be okay. Christmas and Advent remind us that often what we think we need and long for is not what God has provided for us already. In examining the reality that God's ways are not ours, we pause, recognize, and joyfully embrace the reality that our Hero has come and is coming again as the ultimate Ruler of all.

1. Christ Our Prophet (Luke 24:21; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24)

After the death and resurrection of Christ, two of the disciples were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They hadn't yet received the news of the Jesus's resurrection. As they walked, Jesus appeared to them, but they were kept from recognizing Him. As they recounted to Jesus all that had happened the said, "But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). They did not yet know that Jesus was truly the Redeemer and the promised Christ—the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24).








2. Christ Our Priest (Luke 24:21; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24)

Christ is also the priest of His people. Believers need a priest because they are guilty of sin and remain spiritually needy even after salvation. All of Israel sinned and fell short of God's glorious standard. They continually turned from God's ways to follow after their own desires and wisdom. According to Scripture, "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" for sin (Hebrews 9:22), so animal sacrifices were continually made for sin. The priest was the one to carry out this practice.

3. Christ Our King (Luke 24:21; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24)

If you are in Christ it is because Christ has lovingly and graciously conquered you. Before salvation, all people are rebels and enemies of God (see Romans 5:10). It is a mistake to think that before coming to faith in Christ, people are simply innocent bystanders caught up in some cosmic battle. The fact of the matter is that all people are either friends of God through Jesus Christ or enemies of God and follow the will of their father the devil (John 8:44). Everyone who is now a child of God was once an enemy of God who has been subdued by King Jesus and made citizens of a new Kingdom.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

-  What does this passage say?
-  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
-  What does this passage tell us about God?
-  What does this passage tell us about man?
-  What does this passage demand of me?
-  How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
-  How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?