# Where Is the King Sitting?

Family devotions for Thanksgiving week · First Christian Church · Nov 23, 2026 · @Rebecca Sundquist

On Sunday we learned that Jesus is a King who serves, and that we can find him in people who need help. Each day this week, gather your family for a short Bible story, a question to talk about, a simple prayer and something to do together.

## How to use this

Each day takes about five minutes, at breakfast, dinner or bedtime.

1. **Read** the short Bible story out loud. A grown-up can read the verses from a children's Bible or retell them in their own words.
2. **Talk** about the question. There are no wrong answers.
3. **Pray** the short prayer together. Little ones can repeat it line by line.
4. **Do** the activity sometime during the day.

The kids' bulletin from Sunday goes well with this week, especially the Thanksgiving Table Mission checklist.

## Monday: The Shepherd Looks for Every Sheep

**Read:** Ezekiel 34:11–12, 16

A long time ago, God's people felt lost, like sheep who had wandered away from their shepherd. So God made a promise: "I will go looking for my sheep myself. I'll find the lost ones, bandage the hurt ones and help the tired ones." God never stops looking for us, and God never leaves anyone behind.

**Talk:** Have you ever been lost, even for a minute? How did it feel when someone found you?

**Pray:** *Dear God, thank you for always looking for me. Help me look out for others too. Amen.*

**Do:** Play hide-and-seek! Whoever is "it" gets to be the shepherd. When you find someone, say, "Found you! You belong!"

## Tuesday: No Pushing in God's Flock

**Read:** Ezekiel 34:20–22

In this part of the story, God noticed something sad. Some of the big, strong sheep were pushing the little sheep out of the way so they could have the best grass and water. God said, "That's not okay! I will take care of the little ones." In God's flock, there's enough for everyone, so nobody needs to push.

**Talk:** When is it hard not to push, at school, at home, or in line? What could you do instead?

**Pray:** *Dear God, when I want to be first, help me make room for someone else. Amen.*

**Do:** At dinner tonight, practice "you first." Let someone else go first when serving the food, choosing a seat or telling about their day.

## Wednesday: Helping People Is Helping Jesus

**Read:** Matthew 25:35–40

Jesus told a story about a King who said, "When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink. When I was new and didn't know anyone, you welcomed me." The people were surprised. "When did we do that?" The King smiled and said, "Every time you helped someone who needed it, you were helping me!"

**Talk:** Who is someone you helped this week? Who is someone who helped you?

**Pray:** *Dear Jesus, help me see you in the people around me, and help me be kind to everyone. Amen.*

**Do:** Go through your pantry together and pick a few cans or boxes to give to the food pantry. Let the kids decorate a bag for them.

## Thursday (Thanksgiving Day): Thank-You Table

**Read:** Psalm 100

Psalm 100 is a happy song that tells the whole world to shout for joy! It says God made us, we belong to God, and we are like sheep in God's big field. That's why we say thank you: everything good is a gift from God.

**Talk:** Go around the table and have everyone finish this sentence: "I'm thankful for…"

**Pray:** *(Try echo style: a grown-up says a line, everyone repeats.)*
*Thank you, God, for this food.*
*Thank you for the hands that made it.*
*Thank you for the people here,*
*and the people we miss.*
*Help us share with everyone.*
*Amen!*

**Do:** Use the kids' bulletin "Table Mission" checklist today. See how many boxes your family can check off by bedtime!

## Friday: We Have Enough to Share

**Read:** Ephesians 1:16

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to his church friends and said, "I never stop thanking God for you!" Paul knew the best treasures aren't toys or things from the store. They're the people God gives us and God's love that never runs out.

**Talk:** What's something you have plenty of that you could share? (It could be toys, snacks, hugs or time!)

**Pray:** *Dear God, thank you for giving me so much. Help me remember I have enough to share. Amen.*

**Do:** Make a thank-you card for someone at church: a teacher, a friend or someone who always says hi. Bring it on Sunday.

## Saturday: Get Ready, Advent Is Coming!

**Read:** Mark 13:33–35

Tomorrow is the first Sunday of Advent, the time when we get ready for Christmas and for Jesus. Jesus said, "Stay awake! Keep watching!" That doesn't mean we can't go to sleep. It means we keep our eyes open for Jesus every day, in our family, our friends and people who need help.

**Talk:** Where did you see Jesus this week? Who did you help, and who helped you?

**Pray:** *Dear Jesus, we're getting ready for you! Help us keep our eyes open to see you everywhere. Amen.*

**Do:** Get out your Advent wreath, nativity set or a single candle. If you have a nativity, put Jesus somewhere hidden until Christmas, then go on a hunt for him on Christmas morning!