

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR KINGS: Walking with the Leaders of God's People

Aside from King David, your students probably don't know much about the Old Testament kings of Israel and Judah. They may not realize that even though these men were appointed to lead God's people, they weren't always the best examples of righteousness or godliness. They were normal people who made mistakes, needed to grow and mature, and had to make tough decisions. Your students have more in common with these kings than they might think, so what can we learn from their lives that will help us be more faithful in ours?

"KINGS" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – David (1 Sam 16:6-13, 18:6-9; Psalm 59:9-17)** | Even though David was anointed as king, he had to wait and endure persecution for years before God fulfilled that promise. We're all waiting for something to either come or end, but we often see these waiting periods as punishments or obstacles instead of times to grow closer to God and learn to trust His timing. While God's plan certainly requires patience, we can trust Him because He will always be faithful.
- **Session 2 – Joash (2 Chronicles 24:15-22)** | Joash's early reign was marked by righteous decisions, but once his godly guidance is gone, the script is flipped. When the time comes to venture out on our own, we all have to answer the question of how important our relationship with God really is. While we all need spiritual guidance in our lives, in order to be truly faithful to God, we must take ownership of our faith.
- **Session 3 – Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:3-14)** | Rehoboam is faced with a tough decision and seeks advice from two different parties. When we're faced with tough decisions, where we go for advice and what we then do with that advice matters. How can we ever know the right choice to make? When we listen to the Holy Spirit and follow the advice that calls us to live like Jesus, we can be sure that we're making the right choice.
- **Session 4 – Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:24-31)** | Hezekiah was lauded as one of the most righteous kings Judah ever had. However, he struggled to remain faithful to God when things were going well. We can often fall into the pattern of drawing close to God when times are hard but then forgetting or neglecting our relationship with Him when things get better. Through the life of Hezekiah, we can learn that to live consistently faithful lives, we must remember all that God has done for us through Jesus.

"KINGS" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



INSTAGRAM IMAGES



LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

Kings Sermon Series | Session 1: David

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | Dear Lord, thank You that You give me, an unworthy communicator, the gift to deliver a message of hope to Your children. Please help me to steward that well. Please give me the words to speak, and let everyone who will be hearing these words be receptive and willing to learn from what You have to say. I pray that through looking back at these four kings, we're given the tools to live out our faith in our world today. Thank You again for allowing me to communicate Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Kings Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | *Kings* is a four-session sermon series that will walk through key moments in the lives of four kings of Israel and Judah. *Kings* will teach your students to wait on God's timing, take ownership of their faith, consider the voices they listen to, and be consistently faithful in their walk with the Lord.

Series Overview | Aside from King David, your students probably don't know much about the Old Testament kings of Israel and Judah. They may not realize that even though these men were appointed to lead God's people, they weren't always the best examples of righteousness or godliness. They were normal people who made mistakes, needed to grow and mature, and had to make tough decisions. Your students have more in common with these kings than they might think, so what can we learn from their lives that will help us be more faithful in ours?

- **Session 1 – David (1 Sam 16:6-13, 18:6-9; Psalm 59:9-17)** | Even though David was anointed as king, he had to wait and endure persecution for years before God fulfilled that promise. We're all waiting for something to either come or end, but we often see these waiting periods as punishments or obstacles instead of times to grow closer to God and learn to trust His timing. While God's plan certainly requires patience, we can trust Him because He will always be faithful.
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Kings Series | Session 1

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Key Takeaway | God's plan requires patience, but we can trust Him because He is always faithful.

Scripture Focus | 1 Sam 16:6-13, 18:6-9; Psalm 59:9-17

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration:* Family Feud – Old Testament Kings Edition, *Optional Illustration:* Waiting on God's timing (Personal Story)

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to this new series we're starting called *Kings*! In this series, we'll be focusing on four Old Testament kings to see what we have to learn from their lives. You may not know this, but even though the Israelites were the people of God, not all of their kings followed God and His commandments. Some of them were even wicked and enemies in the eyes of God. However, just because these kings weren't the best leaders for the people of Israel doesn't mean that God has nothing to teach us through them.
- B. Everything in the Bible is useful for learning more about God so that we can be well-equipped to live faithful lives to Him. So even when we read about bad kings, and we definitely will over the next four sessions, we can believe that God is trying to reveal something to us that will help us walk more closely with Him. So over the next four sessions, we're going to study key characteristics from the lives of these four kings to learn how we can more deeply love and follow God.
- C. ***Optional Illustration: Family Feud – Old Testament Kings Edition***
 - 1. If I asked for a list of the kings of Israel and Judah, how long would it be until you guessed king David? Is he your first pick?
 - 2. If you had as many guesses as you could ever want, without looking at a Bible, how many more kings could you name?
 - 3. ***NOTE: If time allows, take answers from your students to see how many they can name.***

II. Tension

- A. Have you ever had to wait on something for a really long time? How painful was that? You may even be sitting in your chair right now thinking, "I only had to wait for, like, a few days, and that was the most excruciating thing I've ever had to do." And it's one thing to wait on something that *might* happen, but it's another thing to wait on something that you know is going to happen without a shadow of a doubt. Waiting for something you know is going to happen might even be more brutal, so how do you think you would react if you had to wait *years* for something you knew was going to happen? How much patience do you think that would take?
- B. In our world, we love to do whatever we can to take away these waiting periods. Whether we're waiting for something good to come or for something bad to end, we view waiting periods as punishments or obstacles we have to overcome. But what if we instead viewed waiting periods as opportunities to grow in patience? What if we slowed down and tried to see what God was teaching us instead of doing whatever we could to hit the fast-forward button? No matter how hard or painful it is, waiting periods have something to teach us about God's design for our lives.
- C. In this first session, we're going to look at David's life before he became king to see that WAITING PERIODS ARE SANCTIFYING, NOT SUFFOCATING. God's plan requires patience. It requires us to wait on His timing, but that in-between time doesn't have to be something we despise. Through David's life, God is going to teach us what it looks like to live faithfully by having more patience.

III. Scripture

- A. Before we get into our passage of Scripture for this session, let's take a quick detour to understand a little bit more about what's going on in the background of David's life. Israel hadn't had kings forever. In fact, David was only the second king of Israel. His predecessor, king Saul, was the first king that Israel ever had. Before kings, Israel had judges that upheld justice among the people, but their ruler was God Himself. God had chosen Israel to be His people, which meant He would be their ruler and King, whereas the nations around them had human kings.
- B. However, the people became tired of not having a king as the other nations did. Instead of being a people set apart by and for God, they wanted to be like all the nations. Through His prophet Samuel, God warned the people that this would not turn out well for them, but they stubbornly resisted and stuck to their guns. They wanted a king like the other nations had, so God gave them what they wanted, and Saul was chosen to be king over Israel.
- C. Saul had been king for a couple of years when he sinned against God and disobeyed His commands. He rejected the word of God, and so God rejected him from being king. God sent Samuel, the prophet I mentioned a minute ago, to the house of Jesse to anoint the next king. And that's where we'll pick up in our first passage for this session. We're going to jump around a little bit in the book of 1 Samuel, but the first passage we'll look at is in 1 Samuel 16.
- D. Read 1 SAMUEL 16:6-13
1. *"When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.'" But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."*
- E. So David is finally anointed to be the next king of Israel. He's the one that God has chosen to rule over His people. Not long after being anointed, David is placed in Saul's service to play music for Saul. Fast forward to the next chapter of 1 Samuel, and David defeats Goliath and becomes a national hero! So much so that the people make up a song comparing David to Saul.
- F. Read 1 SAMUEL 18:6-9

1. *“As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, ‘Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, ‘They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?’ And Saul eyed David from that day on.”*
- G. From that point forward, a root of jealousy is planted inside Saul. It progresses to the point of Saul trying to hunt David down and kill him for years. So even though David has already been anointed to be the king after Saul, even though he knew that this would happen without a shadow of a doubt, David has to wait and suffer. And while David got anointed in 1 Samuel 16, he didn't take the throne until 2 Samuel 5. Chapters 18-31 of 1 Samuel follow Saul and David's feud with one another. Scholars aren't exactly sure what the timeline is between David being anointed and then finally becoming king, but it's estimated to be around 15-30 years!! That's longer than most of you have been alive!
- H. Can you imagine having to wait that long? David knew that God had chosen him to be king. But after years and years of waiting, still not being the king, and even having to avoid being killed, surely David began to doubt God's plan, right? Surely he began to question whether God still wanted him to be king. He must've desperately wanted to hit that fast-forward button to get through the waiting period and the hardship he was going through. What's great for us in this moment is that we don't have to wonder what David was thinking. A lot of the Psalms were written by David himself, and there's one in particular that he wrote when Saul sent men to kill him. So let's see how David was responding in this waiting period.
- I. Read PSALM 59:9-17
1. *“O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies. Kill them not, lest my people forget; make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield! For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride. For the cursing and lies that they utter, consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill. But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”*
- J. In this time of waiting, David's faith grows stronger. He praises God because he knows that God is his refuge and still loves him no matter how hard life may get. INSTEAD OF VIEWING HIS SITUATION AS A REASON TO DOUBT GOD'S PLAN, DAVID TRUSTED GOD'S TIMING. David approached his waiting period with patience, trust in God, and faithfulness in his service to Him. He believed that God's timing was still perfect even though the waiting was difficult and longer than he would've preferred. He didn't take matters into his own hands but instead relied on God to come through.

IV. Application

- A. I imagine that most of us would have quite different responses than David's if we had to wait as long as he did and go through the things he went through. Whereas David confesses that God is his strength and that he will watch and wait for Him, I'm sure, at least for myself, that a lot of us would NOT have responded like that.
- B. **Optional Illustration: Waiting on God's Timing**
1. **NOTE:** Share an illustration about a time you needed to wait on God's timing but didn't. The goal is to show your students that everyone has to go through waiting periods, but not everyone (including their pastor) does it right every time.
- C. Here's the truth, I don't know what you came in here carrying, waiting for, or hoping for. But we all have something that we're going through right now. Since GOD'S PLAN REQUIRES PATIENCE, here are a couple of things we can wait on His timing.
- D. WAIT WITH GOD
1. You're probably asking yourself what this means. What does it mean to "wait with God?" What I mean when I say that you should wait with God is that you should lean more heavily on God in your waiting periods instead of turning away from Him. We can all be tempted to exclude God from our waiting periods, but the only real way that we're ever going to grow in the midst of our waiting is by remaining close to the Lord.
 2. One way you can do this is through PRAYER. As we just read in Psalm 59, David prayed to God when he was waiting and suffering. When he was confused and anticipating God to come through, David prayed. And he was honest! He didn't hide his feelings at all. If you read the Psalms and see how David reacted in various moments of his life, he never hid anything from God. He never gave God a filtered version of his feelings because he knew, and you can know, that God desires the full, authentic you. So when you're waiting, pray! And pray fully!
 3. Another thing you can do to wait with God is remember the times He's been faithful in the past. When have you seen God provide before? What has He promised that is now true? There are plenty of examples in the Bible about God always coming through on His promises, and I'm sure many of you have stories of times God provided for you when you needed it. REMEMBERING THESE TIMES IN SCRIPTURE AND OUR LIVES HELPS US TO BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL AGAIN. So when you're waiting, remember the times God has come through before!
 4. The last thing you can do to wait with God is to seek what you could learn from this waiting period. As I mentioned very early in this session, waiting periods are opportunities to grow in patience and faithfulness to God. So what could the Lord be teaching you in this waiting period that would help you walk more closely with Him? What area of your life is He trying to refine? GOD CAN USE EVEN OUR MOST CHALLENGING MOMENTS TO GROW US INTO BETTER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, so when you're waiting, seek these opportunities out.
- E. BELIEVE GOD'S PLAN IS BETTER

1. The second big thing I want you to walk away with tonight is to believe that God's plan is better. When it feels like we're stuck in periods of waiting, it's really easy to think that we should just take things into our own hands and get business done ourselves. But part of growing in patience is trusting that God is doing things that are far better than anything we could ever do for ourselves, even when we can't see them. We can trust that God's plan is better because Romans 8 says, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."*
2. So we can know that if we love and follow God, His plan for our lives is much better than our plan, even if it includes waiting longer than we would like or going through hard things. Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying this is easy. This is extremely hard, and anybody who's been following Jesus for a while will tell you the same thing. There may be people in this room tonight that have been waiting on something to come or to end for a very long time. If that's you, let me remind you that God has not left you. God is not dangling good things in front of you with no intention to ever give them to you. It may feel like following God isn't working or worth it, but please persevere. I promise you that He will be faithful to you. He can be trusted.

V. Gospel

- A. Why can God be trusted, you ask? That's a great question – let me tell you. We have to go back to the beginning when God created the whole world and everything in it in perfect relationship with Himself. However, Adam and Eve, the first two humans, sinned against God. That means they disobeyed God's commands and His will for their lives. Because of that, their relationship with God was eternally broken. They became spiritually dead because God cannot coexist with sin. And we have all received that sinful nature, and we sin every day. We do things against God's Word and will for our lives. We think, do, and say many things that displease God and go against how He wants us to live our lives. So we're spiritually dead and separated from God too. We all owe Him a perfectly obedient life, but we can never make that payment.
- B. But God didn't want to leave us there. Despite our rebellion against Him, He wanted to have a relationship with us again. But that required someone to pay that debt of a perfectly obedient life, and since all humanity was filled with sin, we couldn't do it for ourselves. So God came down from Heaven to do it for us. Jesus Christ, God the Son, came and lived a perfectly obedient life that we were meant to live. He had full rights to life with God, but He willingly gave up His life and died on the cross to pay our debt for us. But the best part is that three days later, He rose back to life, having defeated sin and death forever, and went back to Heaven, where He still is now.
- C. Because our debt is paid, we can freely come before God and have forgiveness of all our sins – past, present, and future. All we must do is repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) our sins and believe that Jesus really is God, that He really came down from Heaven and lived a perfect life, that He really died on the cross, that He really rose from the grave, and that He's the Savior we desperately need. When we submit our lives to Him in this way, we are granted forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and a relationship with God. That's why we can trust God! Because He came down to die for our sins and give us true life, we can trust that He always has us in mind. He's always looking out for

us and will always do what's best for us, even if it may not seem that way to us in the moment.

VI. Conclusion

- A.** God's plan requires patience, but when we approach these waiting periods with trust in His timing and belief that His plan is truly better, we're able to grow in our walk with Him and become more faithful followers of Jesus. We can endure waiting periods with hope because God can be trusted with our whole lives. We can be sure that He will be faithful to us no matter what.

- B.** With that being said, I want to encourage you to have a conversation with somebody tonight if there's an area of your life where you're feeling impatient or the waiting is getting too much to bear. We're all waiting for something to come or to end, and while there are steps we can all take in these waiting periods, we're also going to need people around us to support us in and through those times.

- C.** Let's pray.

Kings Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: David

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Key Takeaway | God's plan requires patience, but we can trust Him because He is always faithful.

Scripture Focus | 1 Sam 16:6-13, 18:6-9; Psalm 59:9-17

Kings | Session 1 Discussion Questions

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Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. What makes you the most impatient? What do you hate waiting on?
 - a. *Examples: Checkout lanes, Drive-thrus, Slow wi-fi, etc.*

Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Sam. 16:6-13, 18:6-9, and Psalm 59:9-17. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Why do you think it's easy to view waiting periods as bad things? What makes you want to hit the fast-forward button? Why do you think God wants us to have patience?
3. What would you say is your biggest obstacle to turning to God in seasons of waiting? Why do you think that thing gets in the way? Why is it hard to trust His timing?
4. What does it mean to "turn to God?" How would you actually do that in your life?
5. What do you think it means to "wait with God?" Give some examples. How do you think this could help you when you're in periods of waiting for something?
6. When has God come through for you before? Does this help you have more hope when you're waiting? Why or why not?
7. Do you believe God's plan is better than anything you could do yourself? Why or why not? In your life, what makes that hard to believe sometimes?
8. Why can you trust God? What do you think makes God trustworthy?