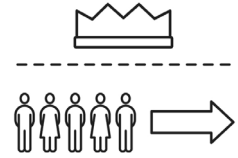
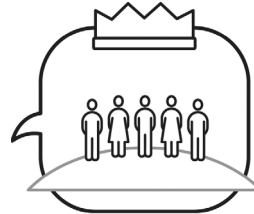
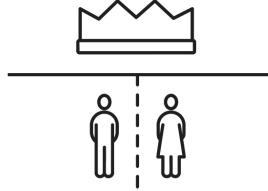
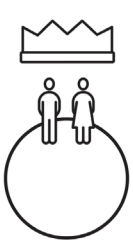


PROMISES KEPT BIBLE OVERVIEW, WEEK FIVE (DEUTERONOMY – 1 KINGS 10)

THE STORY SO FAR... (2 MINS)



Remind your group what you've seen so far:

1. In Genesis 1-2, we saw that God created people to know the happiness of life lived in his presence, under his rule, in perfect relationship with each other, in a perfect place. This is the world we were created to enjoy.
2. In Genesis 3-11, we saw that people listened to Satan and chose not to live under God's good rule. They were therefore unable to live in his presence, experienced strained relationships with each other, and the world itself was spoiled. This is the world we live in today.
3. In Genesis 12-50, we saw God making a covenant—a binding promise—to Abraham, of a people, living in his land, under his rule and blessing. Through one of Abraham's descendants, God has promised to bring blessing to people living throughout the world.
4. In Exodus – Numbers, we saw God revealing himself as Yahweh (I AM WHO I AM) and rescuing Abraham's descendants, Israel, from slavery in Egypt and (supremely) from his judgment. He did it by giving them a lamb to die in their place—a substitute. He has given them him law to show them how to live as his people, and is now dwelling among them in the tabernacle-tent, leading them towards the land he promised Abraham.

OPENING QUESTION (4 MINS)

What qualities make someone a good leader of people? Why is leadership good? When is it not good?

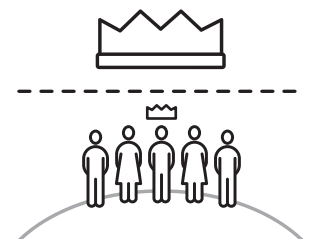
The aim here is to help your group start to think about the fact that leadership is necessary, and (when done well) a blessing; but that leadership can also be deeply damaging, if it is done selfishly or unwisely. Hopefully, the list you come up with for a "good leader" will help you see (you may need to point it out!) that there's no one who fulfils all the qualities we look for in a leader, all the time. (This is why those leaders who inspire the greatest hope tend also to provoke the greatest disappointment—because they simply can't deliver. Think of Barack Obama or Tony Blair...)

VIDEO TALK (16 MINS)

RECAP (1 MIN)

In God's land, God's people kept rebelling, and so kept being invaded instead of enjoying blessing. God gave them judges to rescue them, and then gave them the king they needed—David, followed by his son Solomon, who both led the people into obedience to God and blessing from God. So they lived under the king's rule, in God's land.

And God promised David that one of his descendants would be an eternal king.



APPLY TIME... (7 MINS)

Think about your own experience of national/political leadership, and the attitude to leadership your own culture has. How might that experience and culture affect how you view the idea that "human happiness is linked to a godly ruler"?

Some cultures are much more unquestioning about the benefits of leadership; others are much more cynical. Both are wise at times!—but both can also prevent us from appreciating how great it is to live obediently under a godly ruler, supremely under the Messiah God promised to send. Many of us have had hopes dashed or trust broken by leaders, which then makes us less likely to obey anyone other than ourselves. And if you have been raised in the West, you have imbibed the idea that your happiness is linked to your own freedom to choose your path, and certainly not to obeying someone else, however great a leader they may be.

PROMISE KEPT (11 MINS)

Read Mark 8 v 27-29 and 9 v 2-10

1. What does Peter recognise about Jesus?

"You are the Messiah" or "Christ" (Mark 8 v 29); David's descendant promised in 2 Samuel 7.

2. How does 9 v 2-8 show that Peter is right?

Jesus is seen, briefly, in all his power and heavenly royal glory (v 2-3). A cloud, signifying God's presence, appears and the Father confirms that this is his Son (v 7), who should be listened to ie: heard and obeyed. In a way, this is God saying to Peter and anyone else who identifies Jesus as the Messiah: "Yes, you are right."

3. Given what God promised David, why is this seriously exciting?!

Jesus is the one Israel had waited for, for 1000 years. He is the one who will rule, perfectly, for ever, as God's Son and Messiah, rescuing and ruling his people under God. He is the central figure of history.

4. Remember, the central flaw with both the judges and with David is that, though they may lead God's people to obey God for a while, eventually they die. Why is what Jesus predicts in verse 9 so crucial?

Jesus (referring to himself here as the "Son of Man") would rise from the dead. Death would not be the end of his rule. So not only can he rule God's people perfectly, he can also rule them eternally.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR HEARTS AND LIVES (12 MINS)

1. Why is it good to obey Jesus? Why is it right to do so? Why do we find it hard to?

- It's good because his rule is the one which brings blessing, and does so eternally. We will not find that in any other human leader, authority or opinion-former.
- It's right because he is the all-powerful King of heaven and earth. We should be in awe of him. His status both deserves and demands our obedience.
- It's hard because we are sinful! Like the people in Judges, we naturally reject God and live our own way. We need consciously to obey Jesus even when we don't feel like it or it is not what we would naturally have done.

Make sure that you underline (unless someone in your group does without you needing to do it) the *goodness* of Jesus' rule and of our obedience. The Christian life is not meant to be about obeying Jesus because we have to, or ought to, but because we want to—because he has not just authority but also wisdom and love for us, and so there is a gladness to obeying him, even when it is hard or goes against what we would naturally choose.

2. Is your view of who Jesus is big enough, or is it limited to him being your friend, guide, teacher? How would your thinking and your conduct in the coming week change if you always listened to Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God?

Encourage honesty and specificity!

PRAY (7 MINS)

Thank God...

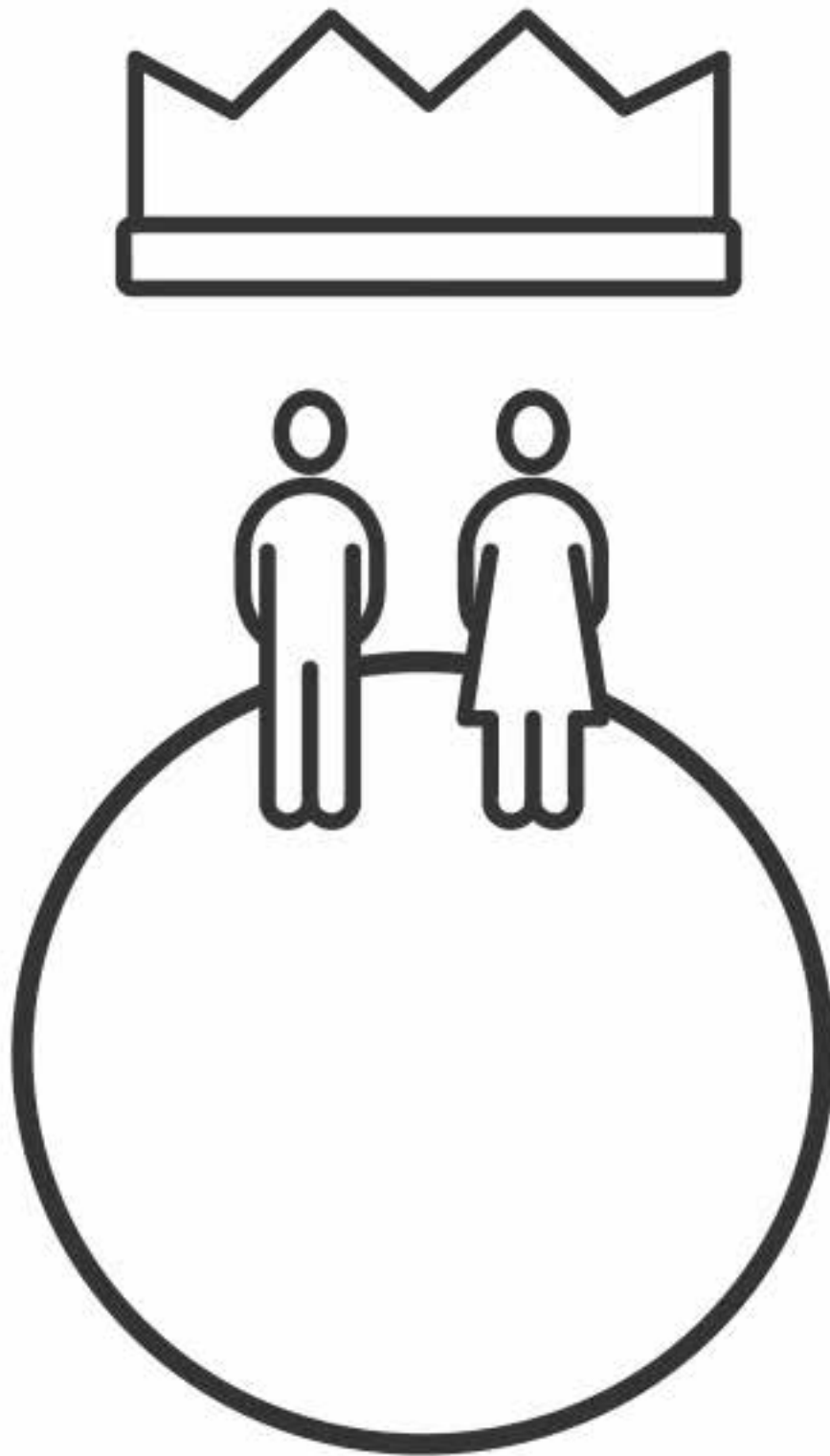
- that he does not give his people what they deserve, but rescues them and provides a ruler for them.
- for the leaders of your church, denomination and state. Pray that God would use them to implement his laws, to protect the vulnerable, and to enable his word to be heard.

Ask God...

- to help you not make too much of earthly leaders, nor too little of them.
- to show you where you are living as you "see fit", instead of how he commands, and to change you so that you would know the blessing of obedience.

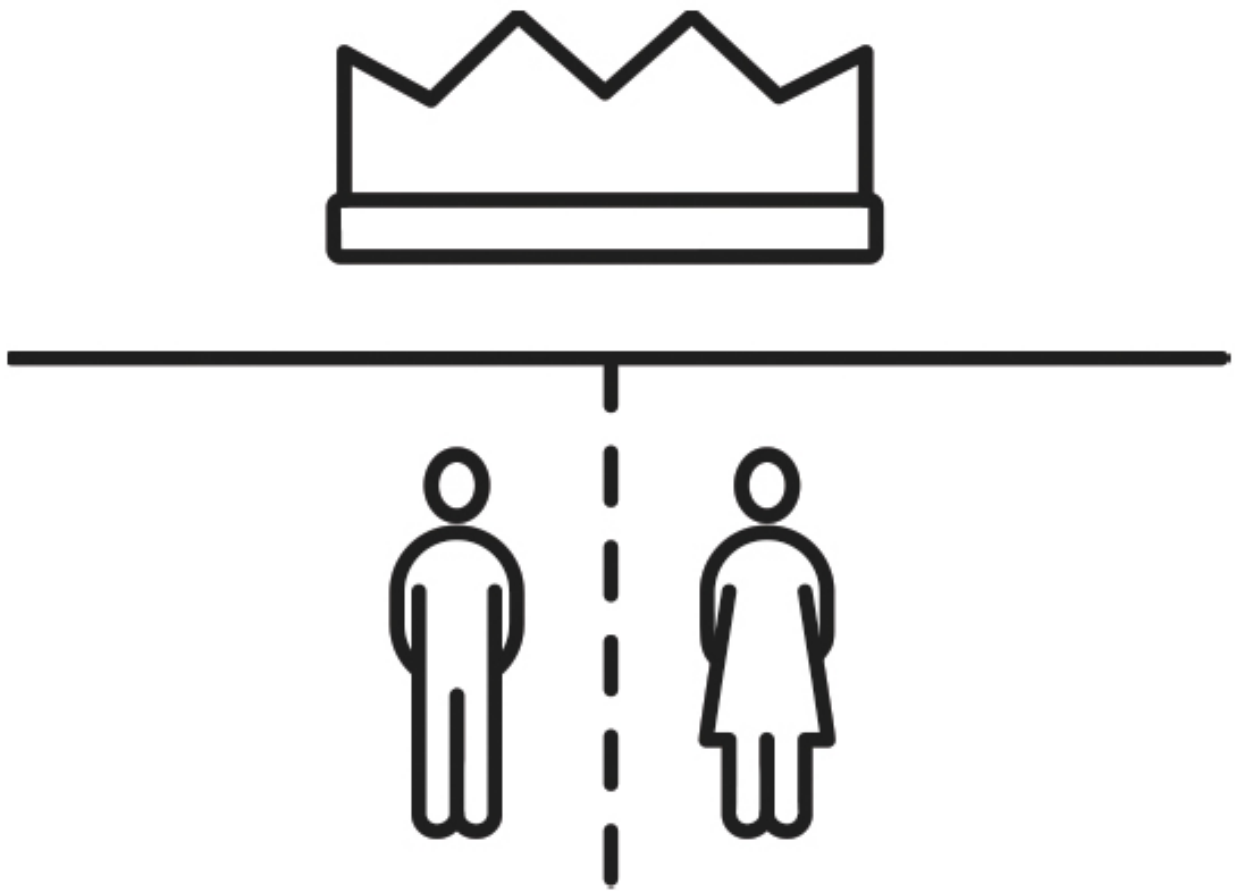
EXTRA BIBLE TIME (to slot in before or after 'Pray')

This week, it's not some extra Bible, but a song to listen to/watch - to reinforce the point that Jesus is unique because he alone was not defeated, and his influence not ended, by death, watch *Jesus is alive* by the US rapper Shai Linne. You can find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BauJLUTxxZo>



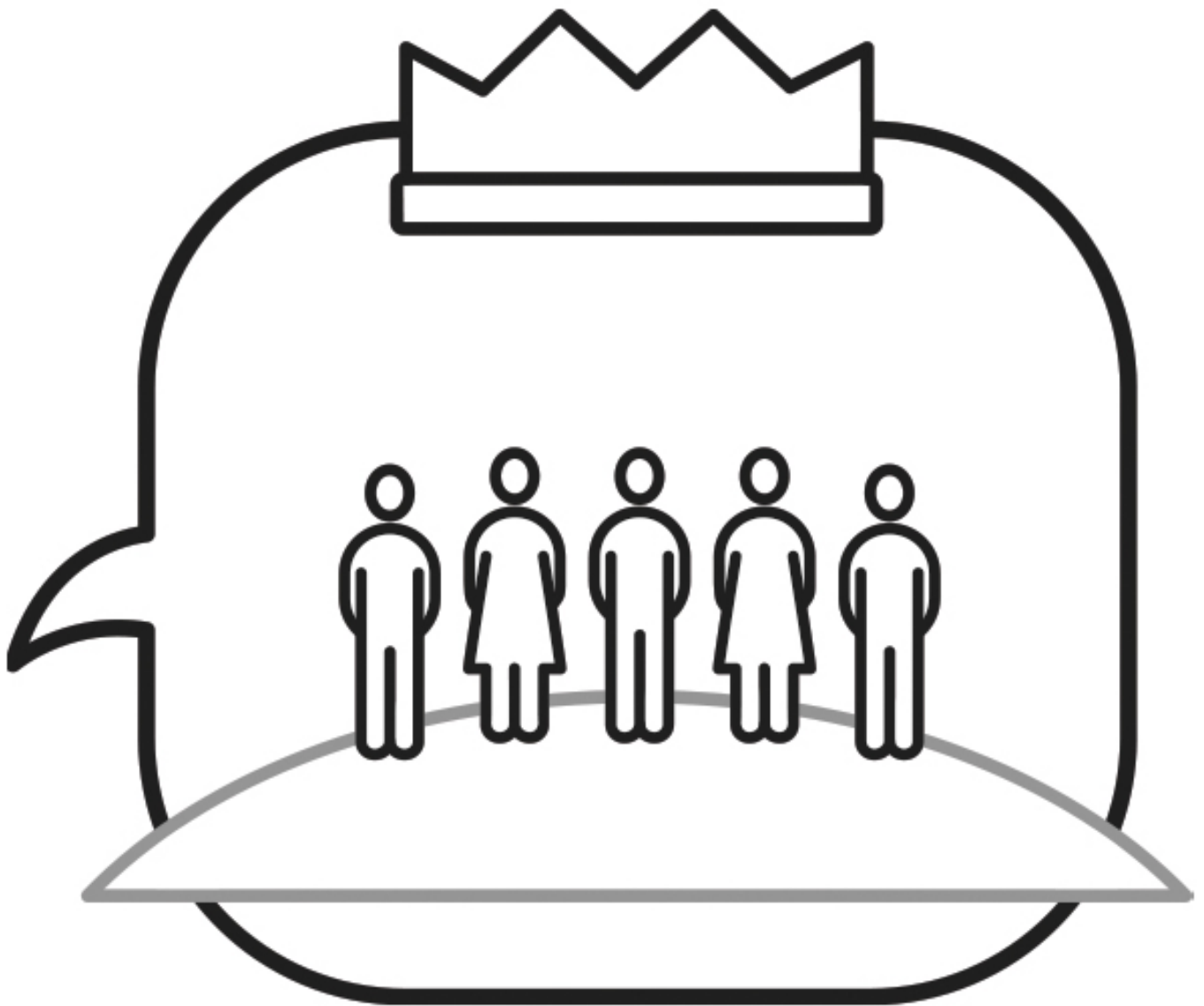
The Promise:

A very good world of blessing in God's presence



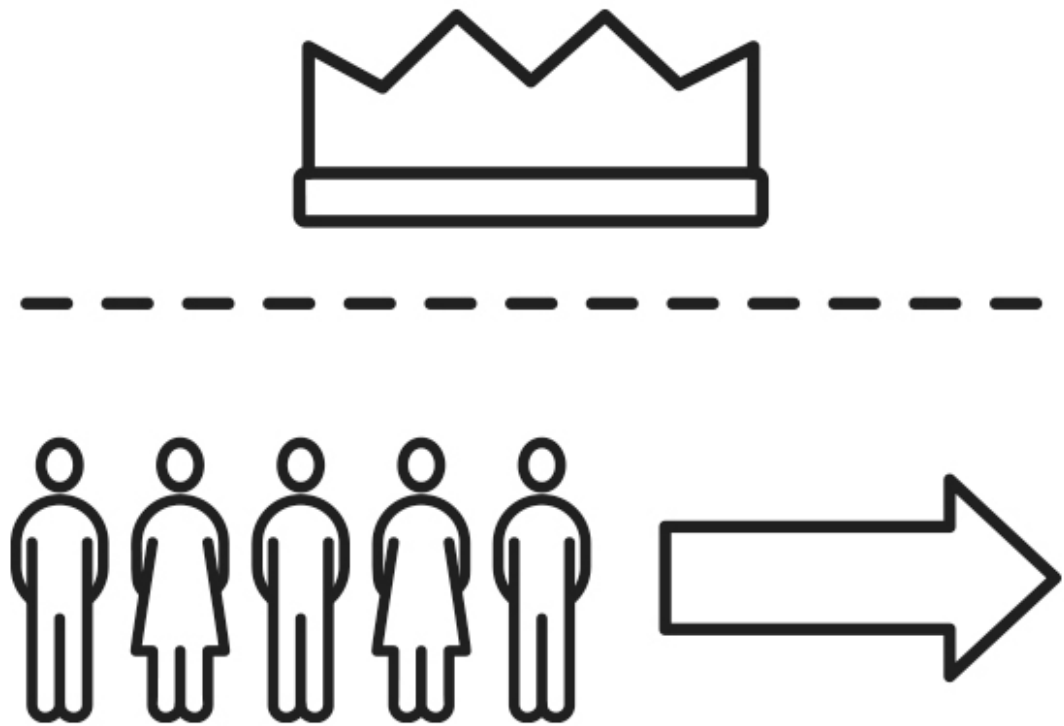
The Promise:

A serpent-crusher, descended from Eve, to undo the ruin of the fall



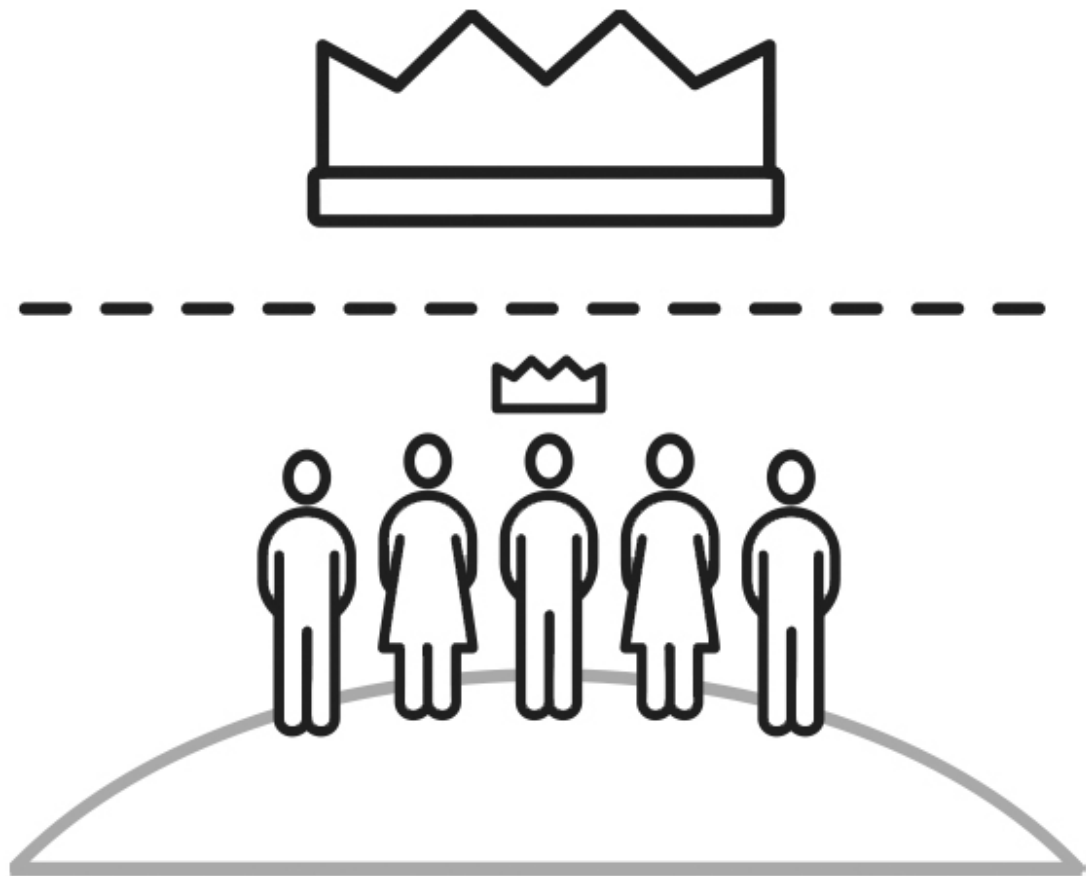
The Promise:

God's people in God's land – a blessing brought to all peoples through Abraham's descendant



The Promise:

A substitute to die in the place of sinners, taking God's judgment so they can be God's people

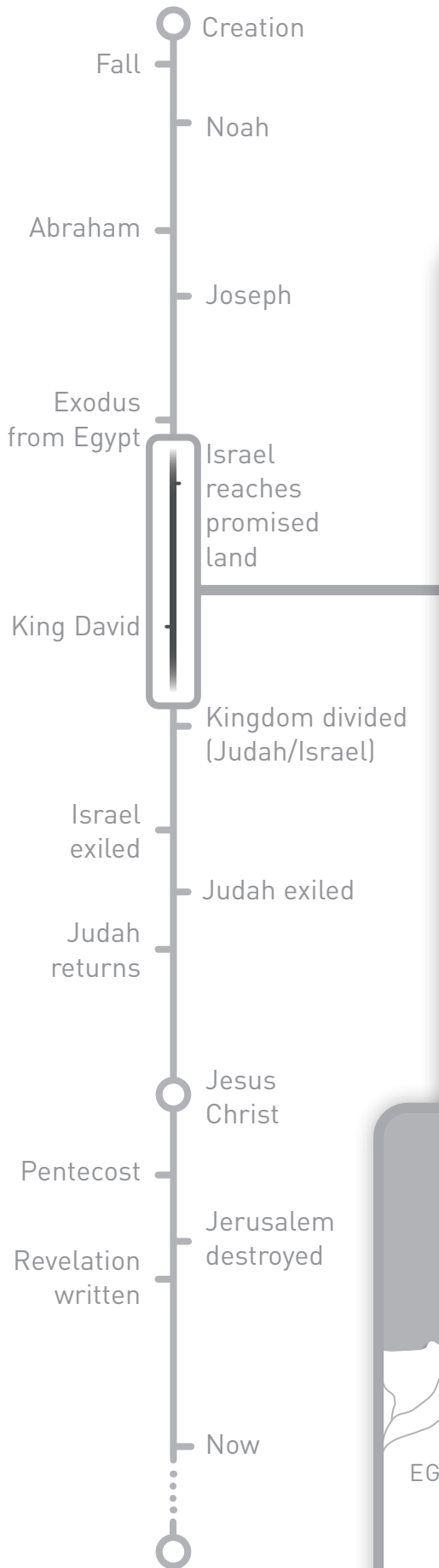


The Promise:

A perfect King, descended from David, who will rule God's people for ever

BIBLE TIMELINE

Where are we in the whole story of God's word?



SESSION FIVE THE KINGS

BIBLE SECTION

Joshua, Judges, Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles 1 – 9
1 Kings 1 – 10
Psalms, Proverbs
Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

MAIN CHARACTERS

Joshua
The judges, including
Deborah, Gideon and Samson
Ruth, Eli, Samuel, Saul
David, Bathsheba, Solomon

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

