



Pioneer Clubs'

Theme Verse 2023/2024

1 TIMOTHY 1:17



Decorations

Decorate the room like a medieval castle. Ideas:

- Use plastic tablecloths with stone design to cover cardboard boxes or hang on walls.
- Make paper chains for a "drawbridge" using black construction paper.
- Make torches using red, orange, and yellow tissue paper stuffed in one end of paper towel rolls.
- Cover a chair in red fabric to create a "throne."
- Create stained glass windows by taping tissue paper in various designs on windows.
- Hang purple or red plastic tablecloths to look like drapes behind the throne.

Activities

God's Authority

Draw a large crown shape on a white board. Have kids write things that God has authority over on sticky notes and put inside the crown shape. Give suggestions such as animals, countries, people, etc.

Supplies:

- white board
- dry erase marker
- sticky notes
- pencils or markers

Word Search

Pass out a copy of the word search printable for children to work on to become familiar with different characteristics of God and understand their meanings.

Build a Castle

Let kids work together to build castles. Talk about who lives in a castle. Imagine what a castle for God might look like.

Supplies:

- magnetic tiles, building blocks, or cardboard boxes

Guess the Characteristic

Write various characteristics of God on notecards (one per child). If your kids may be unfamiliar with the characteristics you use, briefly introduce the words and meanings to the kids before playing the game.

Tape a characteristic of God on each kid's back without letting them see what it says, but facing so that others can see it. Kids will have to figure out what characteristic/attribute of God is on their backs by asking other children. Others can give clues, but can't use the word in the clue. For example, a child with the word "eternal" might receive the clue "He lives forever" or a child with the word "Creator" might receive the clue "He made the world and everything in it." *Option:* Play several rounds, making sure kids have different characteristics each round.

Supplies:

- notecards (1 per child)
- marker
- tape



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Dress Up as Royalty

Encourage younger children to come dressed as princesses or royalty, or provide dress-up clothes for children to pretend to be kings, queens, etc. Make a throne for children to sit on by draping red fabric over a chair.

Supplies:

- robes
- crowns or tiaras
- sceptors
- throne

Crafts

Paper Crowns

Cut crown shapes out of yellow construction paper. Let kids decorate with gems, foam shapes, or coloring. Tape the crowns so that they fit on their heads.

Supplies:

- yellow construction paper
- gems or foam shapes
- glue
- tape
- coloring supplies

Pipe Cleaner Crowns

Cut construction paper into 2-inch strips. Pass out strips. Let kids figure out how long the strips should be to rest in a loop on their heads. Tape two pieces together to create the right width.

Pass out pipe cleaners and pony beads. Kids will use pipe cleaners in the colors of their choice to make the points of their crowns and can string pony beads on to add gems. Near the edge of the paper strip, place double-sided tape. Add the ends of the pipe cleaners, and fold the paper strip over, securing it to the tape. Tape the ends together in a loop so kids can wear their crowns.

Supplies:

- construction paper
- scissors or paper cutter
- pipe cleaners
- pony beads
- double-sided tape
- tape

Songs

Sing songs about God as our king or characteristics of God.



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Devotional

Introduction

Draw a line to divide the dry erase board into two sections. Pass out paper and a pencil to each kid.

Close your eyes and pretend like you were the king or queen for the day. Imagine what things you would do first as the ruler of all things.

- **What would be your first law or first thing you would do as someone in charge of a kingdom?** (Take responses.)

Have kids open their eyes and write down some of the thoughts you had. As they are writing, you and the other volunteers can walk around and talk with each child about what they are writing. Come together as a whole group and ask some students to share out loud what they wrote down. On one side of the board, write down the things shared.

You all would be some awesome kings and queens! But the Bible tells us that God is our king. Hm, I wonder what kind of king God is? Let's find out!

Bible Exploration

The letter of 1 Timothy was written by Paul to Timothy, who was working with the church in the city of Ephesus. Paul had some important messages for Timothy and the church. Let's read part of Paul's letter. Let's open our Bibles to 1 Timothy, which is in the New Testament. Allow time and assist children who need help looking up the verse.

Read together 1 Timothy 1:12-14. Paul is well-known as someone who went to great efforts to share the good news about Jesus with people, even traveling on three missionary journeys. He went through many hardships, including people trying to harm him, being imprisoned, and so much more. He believed that the message he had to share about Jesus was more important than how others treated him.

But Paul hadn't always believed that Jesus was God's Son. Paul had been actively trying to harm Christians. It took meeting Jesus while traveling on the road to Damascus to change Paul's life and purpose. Paul knew that he had done terrible things before he believed in Jesus and accepted His forgiveness.

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16. Paul had experienced God's patience and mercy. By forgiving Paul for his sins and using Paul to share the good news about Jesus, God had shown him grace. God can use anyone to accomplish His purpose—it does not matter who they are or what they have done. That's how great God's forgiveness and grace are. Paul, who considered himself to be the worst possible sinner, was who God used to tell the gospel to thousands of people and to write several letters that we can still read in the Bible today, like 1 Timothy.

Let's see who Paul gave credit for his transformation. Read 1 Timothy 1:17. Let's break down what each of those phrases mean. As you go, write the words or phrases that describe God on the other side of the board.



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- **What do you think it means that God is our "king"?** (God is in charge; God has authority; God takes care of everything He has responsibility over; etc.)
- **What do you think "of ages" or "eternal" means?** (God lives and rules forever; God has always existed and will always exist in the future; etc.)
- **What does "immortal" mean?** (God cannot be corrupted; God cannot be killed; etc.)
- **What does "invisible" mean?** (God cannot be seen; etc.)
- **What do you think it means that God is the "only God"?** (God is the only one who is in control; There are no other ways to be saved; God alone is worthy of praise; God alone made the world and everything in it; etc.)

Let's go back through 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and see if you can find other words that Paul used to describe God. Add these words to the board, and talk about what each one means.

- giver of strength (v. 12)
- judge (v. 12)
- merciful (v. 13, 16)
- gracious (v. 14)
- faithful (v. 14)
- loving (v. 14)
- trustworthy (v. 15)
- Savior (v. 15)
- patience (v. 16)

- **Can you think of any other words that describe who God is?** (Creator; Father; all-powerful; all-knowing; etc.) Add their suggestions to the board. Make sure to give brief definitions or explanations of each word or phrase.

Reread 1 Timothy 1:17. **Paul said that God should receive honor and glory forever and ever.**

- **What do you think it means to give someone honor?** (Treating someone as special and important; Treating them with respect; Giving someone special recognition; etc.)
- **What do you think "glory" means?** (Beautiful; Wonderful; Praiseworthy; etc.)

Application

Wow! God is amazing! These are some pretty powerful ways to describe someone. Especially since God is perfect in each of these ways. His love is full and unconditional. He is always trustworthy and true. He always judges what is right and never makes a mistake. There is absolutely no one like Him!

I wonder though, do you know Him? Do you *want* to know Him? One of the incredible things about God is that even though He is all of these things, He wants to know you personally. He wants to shower you with love, to listen to your concerns. He knows you and He wants to be known by you.

- **If God is our king, how should we respond to Him? How should we act towards Him?** (Show Him respect; Obey Him; Give Him praise; Show Him thankfulness; etc.)



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Let's take a minute to praise God now. Divide into groups of 3-4 kids. Encourage kids to go around in their group and take turns repeating this phrase with different words or phrases that describe God, "**God, we praise You because You are _____.**" Allow time for kids to share several times. Close in prayer, thanking God that He is our King and that we can know Him.

Supplies:

- Bible
- dry erase board
- dry erase markers
- pencils
- paper



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Bible Memory

Memorize 1 Timothy 1:17. Ahead of time, write the words of the verse on separate index cards. Make a set for every two kids to share.

Divide kids into pairs. One partner in each pair will crumple the index cards and "catapult" them using a spoon to their partners. The partner must put words in order. Ask partners to switch roles. As time allows, switch partners and play again.

Supplies:

- Bible
- index cards
- markers
- spoons

Games

Describe the King

Have kids stand or sit in chairs in a circle. Toss a ball randomly around the circle. When a player catches the ball, he must say a word that describes the King (God) before throwing the ball to another player.

Supplies:

- ball

The King Says

Play like "Simon Says". One player is the "King". The King gives players instructions such as "touch your toes". Players should only obey the instructions if the "King" says the phrase, "The King Says" before the instructions.

Supplies:

- None

Pass the Crown

Have children sit in a circle. Kids will pass the crown around the circle as the music plays. When the music stops, the player holding the crown moves to sit in the middle of the circle for one round. Play several rounds.

Supplies:

- device to play kid-friendly songs that praise God
- crown

Pool Noodle Jousting

Divide kids into pairs. Have one pair go at a time, or have all pairs go at once and rotate partners each round.

Each player stands in a hula hoop and holds a pool noodle. Place hula hoops about one foot away from their partner's hula hoops. While standing in the hula hoops, kids will try to get their partner to lose their balance and step outside the hula hoop. They may not hit their partner's head, neck, or torso. Arms or legs are fine. Encourage kids not to hit hard—the goal is not to hurt their partner, just to knock them off balance.

Supplies:

- hula hoops
- pool noodles



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Snacks

2D Castles

Break graham crackers into quarters. Let kids use graham crackers to create castles. *Optional:* Provide some other treats to decorate the castles. Share castles with each other, and then eat and enjoy.

Supplies:

- graham crackers
- *Optional:* candy to decorate castles

3D Castles

Make crispy rice treats ahead of time. In a large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir together until they have completely melted. Remove from heat. Add crispy rice cereal. Stir together. Use a spatula to evenly spread the mixture into a baking pan.

Let the mixture cool, and cut into small, 1-inch squares. Pass out several squares to each kid. Kids will use squares to build a castle. *Optional:* Provide some other treats to decorate the castles. Share castles with each other, and then eat and enjoy.

Supplies:

- crispy rice cereal
- 9 x 13" baking pan
- oven
- butter
- marshmallows
- butter

- spatula
- knife
- *Optional:* candy to decorate castles

Royal Candy

Pass out sucker "sceptors," ring candy, or other candy that could look like jewels that could belong to a king.

Supplies:

- suckers
- ring candy

Sandwich Crowns

Make grilled cheese sandwiches, but cut the sandwich into a crown shape before grilling. Use a knife or a crown-shaped cookie cutter.

Supplies:

- cheese slices
- sandwich bread
- butter
- knife
- crown-shaped cookie cutters
- stove or microwave oven



God Is Our King Wordsearch



ALL-KNOWING
 ALL-POWERFUL
 CREATOR
 DELIVERER
 ETERNAL
 FAITHFUL
 GRACE
 HOLY

IMMORTAL
 INVISIBLE
 JUDGE
 KING
 LOVING
 MERCIFUL
 ONLY
 PATIENT

PEACE
 RIGHTEOUS
 SAVIOR
 TRUE
 TRUSTWORTHY
 WISE
 WONDERFUL
 WORTHY

B	S	E	A	S	C	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	L	Q	R	I	B	M	P
M	U	A	T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	O	A	E	L	B	F
A	R	L	V	W	C	A	M	U	K	Q	U	R	T	N	V	U	R	T	A
D	O	L	R	I	F	R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	F	I	J	Q	S
E	V	P	U	T	O	B	C	U	F	B	N	C	D	H	T	C	N	U	E
L	Z	O	B	P	E	R	J	S	I	O	E	V	T	O	J	M	Z	G	A
I	S	W	V	R	D	G	R	Y	T	E	V	I	S	W	E	K	V	O	L
V	A	E	P	E	A	C	E	H	F	H	A	G	E	R	X	O	D	H	L
E	B	R	U	C	J	T	L	T	A	F	X	S	A	T	H	R	I	T	K
R	L	F	O	H	N	X	S	R	J	K	M	C	R	E	A	T	O	R	N
E	C	U	G	E	O	F	I	O	S	U	K	D	U	S	N	E	F	V	O
R	O	L	I	S	R	W	K	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	S	E	W
N	E	T	N	M	H	D	F	K	R	T	N	G	J	W	K	K	O	F	I
I	A	H	V	C	E	S	D	H	G	I	R	A	E	C	A	R	G	X	N
P	Z	Y	I	L	U	R	J	T	H	X	K	B	I	V	D	U	S	J	G
P	E	L	S	T	X	O	C	Q	U	I	M	M	O	R	T	A	L	G	O
O	U	T	I	Y	I	C	U	I	R	J	G	I	N	F	S	R	N	E	D
M	R	A	B	L	S	X	O	B	F	N	T	H	L	U	H	I	J	V	S
E	T	S	L	O	F	J	E	M	A	U	P	V	Y	Q	K	H	P	M	R
W	I	Y	E	H	O	H	S	C	E	G	L	O	W	J	T	E	S	I	W