

## **SESSION 6**

# **A PROMISED LAND**

## **SESSION AIMS**

To cover the account of the Israelites from their arrival in the Promised Land, through the time of the Judges and Kings. The temple has been built by Solomon and the kingdom of Israel has split in two. Kings come and go, but few follow God. Consider God's response to idolatry and evil, and the fact that God is rich in mercy and patient with his people who don't deserve it.

## **BIBLE REFERENCE**

**JOSHUA, JUDGES, 1&2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS AND 2 KINGS 1-14**

## **GAME: KING OR QUEEN FOR A DAY!**

Roll a dice. If you land a six you become king or queen for a day. What rules would you come up with? How does everyone feel about keeping those rules? Roll the dice again until someone else gets a six. Repeat a couple of times.

## **WEEK 5 RECAP**

Last week we looked at the covenant God made with his people on Mount Sinai after he rescued them from slavery in Egypt. He brought them out of terrible oppression, and told them how to live in a way which would bring them abundant life. However, the people rejected God's way of life and his laws. They grumbled, even saying they'd rather go back to being slaves in Egypt! God could have washed his hands of them, but he keeps loving them and giving them good things, even when it's painfully clear that his people are completely incapable of keeping his rules...

## **WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?**

The promises to Abraham are being fulfilled. Ask the group if they can remember what they are: I will bring you into the Promised Land, I will make you into a great nation and all the families of the earth will be blessed through you. They have arrived in the land God promised, and Abraham's descendants – hundreds and thousands of them – are definitely being made into a great nation! You would think it would all settle down now...

## **WATCH THE EPISODE**

# **GROUP WORK**

**Discuss:** We have covered a lot of the Old Testament today. What particularly strikes you from this period of Israel's history?

*It may help to have an open conversation at this point just to see what the highlights are for the group. Conversation may lead into the killing of 'innocent' people in the land of Canaan. Always bring it back to the fact that God is just and that this was judgement for their wickedness and idolatry as mentioned at the beginning of the video.*

**What do we learn about God from what we have heard today?**

*God is holy and just – he brings judgement on evil and idolatry.*

*God is merciful – he acts on our behalf in a way that we don't deserve. He sent judges to help his people even though they had turned their backs on him.*

*God is patient with his people. They kept getting it wrong, but God remained true to his covenant and didn't turn his back on them. Under the leadership of Moses, God established rituals to make them clean, and sacrifices to atone for their sins through priests who could go into the presence of God on their behalf.*

**Are the Israelites deserving of this mercy? What does this teach us about God's love? What can we learn about God's love towards us from what we have heard today?**

*Draw out the fact that it is God who comes looking for us as underserving as we are and that he remains faithful to his promises.*

# **PRAY TO CLOSE**