



WEEK 1 | 1 KINGS 1
KING FOR A DAY

HOOK

Main Point: God alone establishes who His authority is on earth. Man can either rebel and sin or accept His will and receive grace.

Young Adults

A recent study by Gallup reported that 77 percent of Americans hate their jobs.

How many in our class think the same of their job?

People dislike their jobs for many reasons. The report noted that the following top four workplace complaints cause American companies more than \$300 billion annually without even considering absenteeism, turnover and loss of productivity.

How many complaints do you think our class can state?

1. My boss doesn't recognize, respect, or reward my efforts.
2. People spend too much time gossiping and backstabbing.
3. All the company cares about is money.
4. Higher-ups make the major decisions without considering how they will impact the people who get the work done.

How can we honor God and please Him if we fall into the 77 percent who hate where He has placed us and whom He ordained over us?

Adults

A simple illustration of your authority in the household is when you tell your kids to do something and then they respond by asking why. Your response is, "Because I am your dad/mom and I know what's best for you."

As a teacher, describe a time and ask others in the class to do the same when they had to submit to God's will, trusting it was best, but still didn't like it.

What are some situations where you have chosen to do your own thing rather than God's will and you have suffered for it?

Senior Adults

In many families, there are dynamics at play as members relate to one another. In some families, aging parents could possibly fulfill a matriarchal or patriarchal role.

Does your family have a matriarch or a patriarch? Do you hold that distinction?

Are there times where someone who is not the matriarch or patriarch in the family defaults as the "one who made a decision for the family"?

What is the outcome on the family when this person makes a family decision? Is there peace and harmony or is there disruption and strife?

CROSS REFERENCES:**2 Samuel 3:2–4**

Adonijah would have thought he was the best for the role because he was the oldest living son still alive. His brothers Amnon, Chileab and Absalom (who had tried to overtake David's throne) were no longer alive.

2 Samuel 11–12

Nathan and Bathsheba were once in the middle of David's greatest failure. Through their faithfulness and service, David listened to their words with greater concern.

Exodus 21:12–14

Adonijah seized the horns of the altar because it was considered a place of safety from death. For more information, see page 19 of the Holman Commentary.

BOOK

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Summary of the Text:**1 Kings 1:1–4**

King David had grown so old that he required servants to warm him. His family and advisors realized there was soon need for a new king to rule in his place.

1 Kings 1:5–10

David's son, Adonijah, decided he would be the best choice for the new king. He exalted himself before everyone with sacrifices to God, a large feast and a pronouncement of "Long live King Adonijah" while his father was still alive.

1 Kings 1:11–27

Nathan, a prophet from God, reminded Bathsheba about David's promise to make Solomon king in his place. They together brought the issue to David in humility and reverence as he was still king.

1 Kings 1:28–40

David remembered God's plan for his succession and ordered Solomon be anointed instantly by Zadok the high priest. Solomon was exalted by David as king over all Israel and Judah. David then placed him on the throne to rule in his place.

1 Kings 1:41–53

When Adonijah heard the news of Solomon's anointing, he feared him and took hold of the horns of the altar. King Solomon pardoned him of his rebellious and selfish actions and showed grace to him and his house.

KEY WORDS:**Exalt**

Strong's Reference Number: 5375

Definition: to be lifted up, be exalted; to lift oneself up, exalt oneself.¹

The word *exalt* is important to the text because it is used to describe both Adonijah and Solomon's rise to power. Adonijah is noted as lifting himself up or exalting himself to power while Solomon was given power and lifted up by David himself. This is very important because man cannot establish his own authority; it must be given to him by God. In Philippians 2:5–11, Christ also submits to God's authority and consequently is exalted (lifted up by God) and "the name that is about every name" is bestowed on him.

¹James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996).

TOOK

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Young Adults

What reasons does our generation use to rationalize why we shouldn't follow our boss, parents or other authorities?

How have you seen yourself resemble Adonijah's attitude at work or with authorities? Specifically what thoughts, words and actions reminded you of a disobedient or resentful spirit?

Watchman Nee, a pastor who lived in Communist China, wrote a book on following every authority God has placed on you in response to a rebellious group of Christians. He writes in one chapter, "We typically see authority as a burden, distress or hindrance to our lives. This is not so with God. God uses another man's experiences and wisdom to supply your lack. His wealth becomes your wealth, his honor becomes your honor, and his wisdom becomes your wisdom."

How does Watchman Nee and Solomon's examples change your attitude about the authorities ordained over you by God?

Adults

As a teacher, share a situation in your life where God's plan for you has proven to be a huge blessing, despite your not having previously chosen that path for yourself.

What are some of the key areas in your life as young marrieds where you want to be "god"?

What are some of the consequences when you respond in these situations with rebellion rather than submission?

What are some practical ways that you can remind yourself of God's goodness and faithfulness which can then lead to a response of trust to do what He says to do?

Senior Adults

God's plan is not always the easiest to understand or follow. There are times when the family matriarchs or patriarchs make a decision that is not based on God's direction or plan.

Ask a volunteer to identify a time when a family decision was made without seeking God's plan or desire.

What was the outcome within the family dynamics?

What was the emotional dynamic in the family?

How can we protect ourselves and our families from taking a path of disobedience?