



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE<sup>®</sup>

Session 8: Our Savior

Suggested Week of Use: April 20, 2025

Core Passage: Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-8

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### News Story Summary

Earlier this month, the animated film *The King of Kings* released for showings throughout the Easter season. The movie came at a time when a number of other Christ-centered films have appeared in theaters across the country.

*The King of Kings* is adapted from a work that Charles Dickens penned for his own children, and it uses Dickens and his son, Walter, as the chief storytellers. In addition, the movie is loaded with top Hollywood names voicing various characters, including Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman, Sir Ben Kingsley, Mark Hamill, and Forest Whitaker. In its review of the film, *The Collision* stated, “As a Gospel adaptation, the film’s theme is nothing less than the Good News of the Gospel itself. What makes the film powerful is to take that theme from the abstract and make it personal. The elder and younger Dickens are active participants in the Gospel story. . . . By engaging in the story, they both come to learn the nature of forgiveness.”

Another reviewer called *The King of Kings* “a beautifully made, deeply emotional experience—not just for kids, but for parents too.” He noted that quality in faith-based media matters more than ever because “it opens doors to people who might never step into a church.”

For more about this story, search “The King of Kings The Collision” or “The King of Kings Love Thy Nerd.”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, explain that this session steps away from 1 Peter and focuses on the Gospel of Mark’s account of Easter. Note that the season often provides opportunities for those outside the church to hear about Jesus’s death and resurrection. Encourage adults to share if they have seen *The King of Kings* movie in theaters. Allow those who have to share their thoughts about the film. Read the information about the film and its reviews provided above. Highlight the statement from one reviewer that such movies have the power to “open doors to people who might never step into a church.” Discuss the group’s reactions to this statement. Challenge then to consider other ways they can take advantage of “open doors” for talking to others about Jesus as they study these verses from Mark.

## Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: *How does a movie like The King of Kings visually display the truth of the three points of this lesson?* Remind adults of the movie's reviews from the beginning of the session. Share the statement about the film's ability to take the story of Jesus "from the abstract and make it personal." Challenge participants to look for ways to make the gospel message personal for others this week. Close in prayer, asking God to give each adult wisdom to see opportunities to tell others about Jesus and the courage to step into those opportunities for His glory.