



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Session 4: God's Reign

Suggested Week of Use: June 22, 2025

Core Passage: Psalm 96:1-13

### News Story Summary

*Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines a “selfie” as “an image that includes oneself (often with another person or as part of a group) and is taken by oneself using a digital camera especially for posting on social networks.”<sup>1</sup> Taking selfies seems harmless enough until 16,000 people a day visiting La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain, pose outside the church, on sidewalks, and streets, and in front of businesses near the church. Still, while approximately five million people visit the landmark each year, most stay outside. Only about twenty percent of the tourists find their way into the building. To better manage the selfie-taking crowds, the Barcelona Tourism Management is building a large plaza in front of the church.

For more information on this story, search “Selfie Space at the Sagrada Familia.”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, invite adults to look through their phones for their favorite selfies. Allow a few volunteers to share the details about their choice. Ask: *Would you take a selfie during a worship service? Why might you take a selfie with a church in the background?* Summarize the information related to La Sagrada Familia in Spain. Emphasize that eighty percent of visitors never enter the church. Discuss how people sometimes appreciate the beauty of a church but miss the chance to encounter God there. Note that many who attend each week aren't really prepared to worship God. Ask: *What makes God worthy of our worship? What impact should that have on us as we enter His house?* Share that this session emphasizes God's reign over His creation. Challenge adults to consider how they tend to approach God and how they can adjust their lives to acknowledge Him as the only One worthy of our worship.

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, share that many scholars believe King David composed Psalm 96 when the ark of the covenant was brought into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:14-15). Compare David's celebration to the crowds outside La Sagrada Familia. Say: *In the ancient world, most gods were considered “regional,” holding authority over a limited area. But Psalm 96 emphasizes the universal power and worthiness of God. He deserves worship and praise.* Encourage adults to consider how they can declare God's praise through their worship and through their everyday lives. Pray that each adult will find ways to be a genuine “selfie” for God, reflecting His character and beauty to the world around them.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/selfie>, accessed 11 June 2025.