

## “Bowing the Knee” | Worship as desperation

**GETTING STARTED:** What experience do you have with child car seats? What do you remember about them from your childhood? What is your least favorite experience with use or installation?

### EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. How can you tell if someone is experiencing desperation?

What might be the cause of such desperation? How does Psalm 73:25-26 help paint a picture of desperation?

2. How familiar were you with the story of Adonijah (pronounced ad-n-ahy-juh)? Why is it important that we become familiar with lesser known Biblical characters and stories like this one?

3. Exodus 27:1-2 provides a description of a “horn” feature on some altars. How does Exodus 21:12-14 explain how that altar could serve as a place of refuge for people in trouble? What is significant about the level of specificity given in these verses? Who could and could not receive protection from death?

4. What modern day examples do you think of when you hear of someone claiming “sanctuary”? What did it mean in the case of Adonijah in 1 Kings 1:50-51.

5. What would you say to someone that said, “If worship means we’re entering the presence of our loving Father, why would we need to feel desperation?” Why might this concept be confusing for someone new to following Christ?

6. Why is it important that we are reminded of the truth that, “God is king, you are a rebel, and you need his mercy”? How can we be mindful of that reality in our daily lives?

7. In what ways was Jesus familiar with desperation? At what points during his life would he have been most familiar with this emotion? In what ways might this emotion have impacted the ways in which he communicated with his Father?

8. Identify the words that describe worship found in Hebrews 12:28-29. How can someone make those attributes (as well as desperation) a part of their worship?

### APPLY THE TRUTH:

Consider writing out the phrase, “God is king, I am a rebel and I need his mercy” and putting it somewhere to remind you of that reality. You might choose to put it in the cover of your Bible, the dashboard of your car or insert it into your wallet or purse. When you read it, remember the desperation felt by Adonijah and the hope he experienced after clinging to the altar.

### PRAY:

Try using this prayer, modeled after the themes of Hebrews 12:28-29:

Merciful God, I come to you as a loving Father, mindful that you are consuming fire. Help me to approach you with all due reverence and awe. Forgive me for those times that worship becomes routine and I fail to bring my thanks and praise urgently before you.

### NOTES:

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