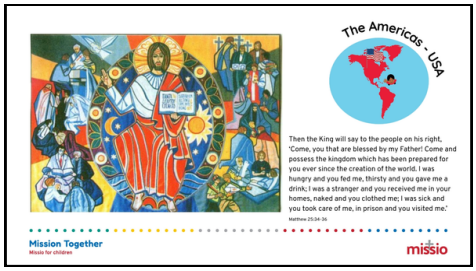
Mission Together

Global images of Christ the King: Discussion questions

SLIDE ONE: Europe, Poland

- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- Why do you think the artist has painted Jesus in the sky?
- If you look closely, you can see that the artist painted a golden crown above Jesus' head. Why might they have done this?
- Think about the colours the artist has chosen to use. What might these be signs of and what ideas do they help to create?
- What other signs and symbols can you find, and why do you think the artist has added them?

SLIDE TWO: North America, USA



- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- If you look closely, you can see that the artist has painted several groups of people around the edge of the painting. What are they doing and why do you think the artist has included them?
- Does their presence remind you of any particular Gospel passage?
- Why do you think the artist has chosen to paint the scene as if it were taking place in their country and in their time?
- What do you like about the painting?

SLIDE THREE: Europe, Greece

- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- This type of painting is called an icon. Icons are painted as a type of prayer, and they are intended to be used as an aid to prayer too. How might this icon help us to pray?
- Why do you think the artist chose to paint Christ with an open book? What might the book represent?
- Look closely at Jesus's crown. Why do you think the artist included jewels? If you painted an image of Christ the King, would you add jewels in the crown? Why?
- In icons, colours are used as symbols. Blue is a symbol of holiness; red is a symbol of honour and sacrifice. What do the colours in this icon teach us about Jesus the Christ?

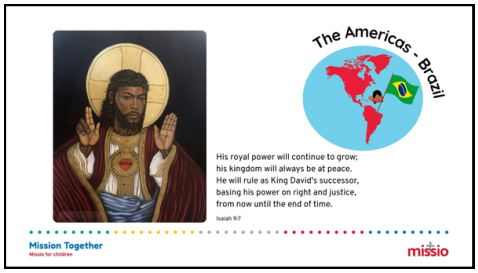
SLIDE FOUR: North America, USA

- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- The artist has chosen to focus attention on the natural world. Why do you think they have chosen to do this?
- If you look closely, you can see that the artist has added sheep, a cockerel, and fishes. Why do you think the artist added these?
- What other signs and symbols can you find, and why do you think the artist has added them?
- Look closely, Jesus has a crown but it is made of flying birds! What might this tell us about the kingship of Jesus?

SLIDE FIVE: Europe, United Kingdom

- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- This type of painting is called an icon. Icons are painted as a type of prayer, and they are intended to be used as an aid to prayer too. How might this icon help us to pray?
- Why do you think the artist chose to paint Christ with an open book? What might the book represent?
- In icons, colours are used as symbols. Blue is a symbol of holiness; and gold represents the light of God, and the radiance of the Kingdom of Heaven. What do the colours in this icon teach us about Jesus the Christ?
- Can you see that Christ's hand is almost coming out of the picture towards us. Why do you think the artist has painted it so?

SLIDE SIX: South America, Brazil



- Take a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- The artist has painted Jesus's right hand raised with two fingers and thumb raised too. This is an ancient sign that artists use to help us think about the Trinity. It reminds us that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you look at Jesus's left hand you can see another sign of His love. What do you think this is?

The artist has added the wounds left by the crucifixion. A reminder that Jesus the Christ gave His life that we might realise how much He loves and forgives everyone.

- In the middle of these two hands, the artists has added an image of the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is always shown outside Jesus's chest, with flames and thorns around it. Why do you think the artist added an image of Jesus's Sacred Heart?
- What do you like about this painting?

SLIDE SEVEN: Africa, Ethiopia

- Have a good look at the painting. What can you see?
- This type of painting is called an icon. Icons are painted as a type of prayer, and they are intended to be used as an aid to prayer too. How might this icon help us to pray?
- Look closely at the images in the corners around Jesus. What are they and what might they represent?

The artist has added the symbols of the four Gospel writers: Matthew (and angel), Mark (the Lion), Luke (the Ox), and John (the eagle).

- Why has the artist chosen to add the Gospel writers in this painting of Christ the King?
- In icons, colours are used as symbols. Blue is a symbol of holiness; red is a symbol of honour and sacrifice. What do the colours in this icon teach us?
- This painting was created in Ethiopia, one of the first countries where people became followers of Jesus after He ascended to heaven. Paintings like this helped people learn about Jesus at a time when many could not read. If you were painting a picture of Christ the King, what would you want people to learn about Jesus? What colours, symbols, or images would you include to help show this message?