

2026-07-22 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide

Based on a Sermon on Jehoshaphat — 2 Chronicles 18-19

Overview

This sermon draws from the life of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to explore what it looks like to live with a surrendered heart toward God. Through the stories of the prophet Micaiah, the battle at Ramoth Gilead, and Jehoshaphat's cry to God in the middle of danger, the sermon challenges us to confront fear with faith, speak truth with courage, and learn to discern God's voice from the voices around us.

Key Takeaways

God can accomplish great things through imperfect people who have surrendered hearts.

Fear is a natural human response, but faith calls us not to stay afraid — we can cry out to God in the middle of it.

Boldness in speaking God's truth, like Micaiah demonstrated, comes not from self-confidence but from confidence in God.

Discernment is essential — not every word spoken to us in a spiritual tone is a word from God, and we must bring those words to prayer.

Fulfillment in life comes not from trying harder to be good, but from living for God and wanting others to know Him.

Opening Question

Use this to help the group ease into conversation before diving deeper.

Think of a time when someone believed in you even when you felt unqualified. How did that affect you? How might that reflect the way God sees us?

Discussion Questions

On Surrendered Living

The sermon describes Jehoshaphat as someone who "had a heart for God"

even though he was far from perfect. What do you think it means practically to have a heart for God in your everyday life? How is that different from just trying to be a good person?

The pastor said that fulfillment does not come from trying to be better, but from living for God and wanting others to be blessed by Him. Do you agree with that? Where have you seen that to be true or difficult in your own life?

On Fear and Faith

The sermon makes the point that God never promised we would never feel afraid — He just tells us not to stay afraid. How do you personally distinguish between the initial feeling of fear and allowing fear to control you?

Jehoshaphat cried out to God when the chariots came at him, and the Lord helped him. The pastor suggested that crying out to God in fear is different from panicking in fear. What does crying out to God actually look like for you in a moment of real pressure or danger?

The sermon used the image of a runaway wagon train to describe how fear, if unchecked, will take us somewhere we do not want to go. Can you think of a time when fear pulled you down a mental path that turned out to be worse than the actual situation? What helped you stop or redirect?

On Speaking Truth Courageously

Micaiah was willing to speak what God told him even when it meant imprisonment and the threat of death. The pastor noted that his boldness came from fearing God more than fearing man. In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to speak truth because of what others might think or how they might respond?

The sermon describes Micaiah as someone who was not trying to be confrontational or cool — he simply believed what God had told him and would not back down from it. How do you tell the difference in yourself

between speaking up out of conviction and speaking up out of pride or frustration?

On Discernment

The pastor raised a caution about Jehu's words to Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 19:2, noting that there is no indication God sent him to say those things. He warned that people can speak to us in spiritual-sounding ways from their own hearts rather than from God. How do you currently practice discernment when someone speaks a word of correction or direction into your life?

The sermon encouraged the group to bring words spoken over them to God in prayer rather than either immediately accepting them or immediately dismissing them. What habits or practices help you create that kind of reflective space in your life?

On God's Providence

The random arrow that struck King Ahab between the sections of his armor is used in the sermon as a picture of God's sovereign ability to move the pieces of the world in ways we cannot predict or control. How does that image either comfort or challenge you in a situation you are currently facing?

Personal Reflection

Take a few quiet minutes individually before sharing with the group.

What is the biggest thing God may be trying to tell you right now? How many times has He already said it? What response is He asking for?

Is there an area of your life where fear has been driving more than faith? What would it look like this week to cry out to God in that specific area instead of letting fear run?

Is there someone in your life God may be prompting you to speak an

honest, kind word to? What is holding you back?

Practical Applications

These are action steps group members can take before the next gathering.

Identify your fear. Write down one specific fear that has been taking up mental and emotional space in your life. Bring it to God in prayer each day this week, naming Him as bigger than that fear. Notice what begins to shift.

Practice crying out. The next time a fearful thought surfaces, stop and speak out loud or write out a short prayer to God before letting your mind run with the fear. Keep it simple — God, you see this. You are bigger than this. I trust you.

Seek discernment on a word you have received. If someone has spoken something corrective, directional, or spiritually significant to you recently, bring it before God this week and ask Him honestly — Is this from you? What do you want me to do with it?

Read 2 Chronicles 19 and 20 on your own before the next meeting. Pay attention to how Jehoshaphat responds to God after the battle and what happens when Judah faces a new and overwhelming threat. Come ready to share one thing that stood out to you.

Share your faith in a practical way. The sermon emphasized that a surrendered heart wants others to know God, not just to keep Him to ourselves. Identify one person in your life this week with whom you can share something specific about what God has done in your life — not a formula, just your story.

Closing Prayer Guide

Close your time together by praying through these areas as a group.

Thank God for working through imperfect people, including each person in

the room.

Ask God to help each member identify and surrender the fears that have been running unchecked.

Pray for boldness to speak truth when God calls for it and wisdom to stay quiet when He does not.

Ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen the group's ability to discern His voice from the noise of other voices.

Pray for one specific need or situation each person is facing, asking God to show up in a way that only He can.

"Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is upon you. There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God." — 2 Chronicles 19:2-3