

2026-07-29 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide

Based on 2 Chronicles 20: The Battle Belongs to the Lord

OVERVIEW

This session draws from the account of King Jehoshaphat facing a vast coalition of armies in 2 Chronicles 20. Rather than responding to crisis with panic or self-reliance, Jehoshaphat modeled a pattern of humility, corporate prayer, worship, and trust that led to a remarkable deliverance. This guide will help your group explore what it looks like to apply that same pattern in everyday life.

BEFORE YOU MEET

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 on your own. As you read, note any verse or phrase that stands out to you and be ready to share it with the group.

OPENING QUESTION

Think of a time when something went completely sideways on you and nothing went according to plan. How did you initially respond, and what did that response reveal about where your trust was?

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

- Jehoshaphat was alarmed by the threat, but he did not let fear drive him. He stopped, fasted, and inquired of the Lord.
- He gathered the people and redirected their attention away from the crisis and toward God.
- His prayer rehearsed who God is before it asked for anything. Declaring God's character is one of the most stabilizing things we can do in a moment of fear.
- The declaration "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2 Chronicles 20:12) is both an admission of helplessness and an act of faith.
- God responded through a Spirit-filled messenger with a clear word: the battle belongs to God, not to them.
- Jehoshaphat led the army into battle not with weapons drawn but with worshipers singing praise at the front.

- The enemies destroyed one another. Judah never raised a sword.
- The result was not only victory but plunder, peace, and the fear of God spreading to surrounding nations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Getting Into the Text

- 1 In 2 Chronicles 20:3, it says Jehoshaphat was alarmed but then resolved to inquire of the Lord. What is the difference between stopping at being alarmed and moving toward inquiring of God? What tends to keep people stuck in the alarm stage?
- 2 Jehoshaphat called the entire nation to fast and pray together. Why do you think he made this a corporate response rather than handling it privately? What does that say about the role of community in facing crisis?
- 3 Look at Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 6 through 12. He spends most of the prayer declaring who God is before he makes a single request. What does that pattern reveal about how he understood prayer? How does that compare to how most of us tend to pray?
- 4 The declaration in verse 12, that they had no power and did not know what to do but that their eyes were upon God, is one of the most honest prayers in Scripture. Why is admitting powerlessness so difficult? What makes it an act of faith rather than defeat?
- 5 God's instruction through Jehaziel in verses 15 through 17 was essentially: take your positions, stand firm, and watch. He told them not to fight. How do you discern when a battle is yours to fight and when it belongs to God?
- 6 Jehoshaphat responded to God's word by immediately bowing with his face to the ground in worship, and the people followed. What does it tell us about his leadership that his first instinct was worship rather than strategy?
- 7 The decision to put worshipers at the front of the army instead of soldiers is one of the most counterintuitive moments in all of Scripture. What do you think worship accomplishes in the middle of a battle or a crisis that strategy and effort cannot?

Connecting to Daily Life

- 8 The pastor mentioned that we often fight things in the flesh that were never ours to fight in the first place. Can you think of a current situation in your life where you may be straining against something that God has not asked you to carry alone?
- 9 The pastor challenged the group to keep a record of times God has come through. Do you have something like that, whether written down or stored in your memory? How does rehearsing what God has already done affect your trust in what he is doing now?

- 10 10 Jehoshaphat's worship was not dependent on the lights being right, the song being familiar, or the circumstances being comfortable. The sermon was delivered during a power outage, and the group still gathered and worshiped. What does that say about the nature of genuine worship? What conditions do you tend to place on your own willingness to worship?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week, Choose One

- • Write out a prayer modeled after Jehoshaphat's in verses 6 through 12. Begin by declaring who God is, then acknowledge your own inability, and close with the simple statement that your eyes are upon him. Pray it daily over a specific situation you are currently facing.
- • Start a running list, either in a journal, on your phone, or on paper, of specific times God has come through for you. Include at least three entries this week and add to it regularly.
- • Identify one situation in your life where you have been trying to fight a battle in your own strength. Bring it before God this week and ask him directly whether this is a battle he is calling you to fight or one he is asking you to hand over entirely.
- • Before your next Sunday gathering, spend five minutes in personal worship before you arrive. Come with the intention of worshipping as preparation for the week ahead rather than as a routine to complete.
- • Share the account of Jehoshaphat with someone outside your group this week, a neighbor, coworker, or family member, who is facing something overwhelming. You do not need to preach. Just tell the story and let it speak.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Jehoshaphat did not receive a promise that things would be easy. He received a promise that God would be present and that the battle belonged to him. The outcome was extraordinary, but the foundation was simply this: a people who humbled themselves, kept their eyes on God, and worshiped even when the enemy was still on the march.

Close your time together by reading 2 Chronicles 20:15 and 17 aloud as a group, where God tells his people not to be afraid or discouraged because the battle is his and he will be with them. Then spend a few minutes in prayer, giving specific battles in your group members' lives back to God and asking him to be the one who fights on your behalf.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- - Psalm 46, which speaks of God as a refuge and strength in times of trouble and calls his people to be still and know that he is God
- - Romans 13:1, which addresses God's sovereignty over earthly authorities and kingdoms
- - Philippians 4:6-7, which instructs believers not to be anxious but to bring everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving
- - Psalm 22:3, which speaks of God inhabiting the praises of his people
- - 1 Samuel 15:22, where God declares that obedience is more desirable to him than sacrifice