

2026-07-08 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: The Kingdom Life of Jehoshaphat

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His Word and help you apply these truths to your daily lives.

Icebreaker Question

What's one historical event or person that has taught you an important life lesson?

Key Scripture

2 Chronicles 16:9 - "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

Sermon Summary

This message explores the life of King Jehoshaphat and his father Asa, showing us the importance of full commitment to God. While Asa started well but finished poorly, Jehoshaphat learned from both his father's successes and failures. As believers, we are part of God's kingdom—a priesthood of "living stones" built together. God is looking for hearts that are fully committed to Him, not halfway or partially devoted.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

What contrasts do you see between King Asa's early reign and his later years? What caused the shift in his relationship with God?

What does it mean that "the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed"? How does this challenge or encourage you?

Why was Jehoshaphat's decision to send teachers throughout Judah so significant? What were the results of prioritizing God's Word?

Personal Reflection

The sermon mentions we're called to be "living stones" in God's kingdom. How does this image of interdependence challenge our American mindset of independence?

Asa refused to seek God even when afflicted with disease. Have you ever found yourself "toughening up" instead of turning to God during difficulty? What happened?

What does "fully committed" look like in practical terms? In what areas of your life are you holding back from full commitment to God?

Application

Jehoshaphat learned from his father's mistakes without becoming bitter or rebellious. How can we learn from the failures of those who've gone before us (parents, leaders, mentors) while still honoring them?

The sermon emphasizes being a "priesthood of believers"—representing people to God and God to people. Who in your life needs you to fulfill this priestly role right now?

When Jehoshaphat prioritized teaching God's Word, "the fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms." What would it look like for your workplace, neighborhood, or family to experience this kind of transformation?

Key Takeaways

Full commitment matters to God - He's not looking for participation trophies but hearts fully devoted to Him

God's eyes are searching - He actively looks for those He can strengthen and support

God's Word transforms communities - When we prioritize Scripture, the ripple effects extend beyond ourselves

We're living stones, not independent bricks - We need each other to stay in place and build God's kingdom

Finish strong - How we start matters, but how we finish matters even more

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Write it out - Handwrite 2 Chronicles 16:9 and place it somewhere you'll see daily. Meditate on what "fully committed" means for your life.

Assess your commitment - In your journal or with a trusted friend, honestly evaluate areas where you're holding back from God. Ask Him to show you what full commitment would look like.

Be a living stone - Identify one person in your church community who needs encouragement or support. Reach out and actively help "hold them in place" this week.

Prioritize God's Word - Commit to reading Scripture daily for 15 minutes. If you're already doing this, find someone to teach or share what you're learning with.

Learn from history - Reflect on someone whose faith journey you've observed (parent, mentor, church leader). What can you learn from both their successes and failures?

Prayer Focus

Pray for full commitment - Ask God to reveal any areas of partial devotion in your life

Pray for your church - That it would be a community of living stones built together in love

Pray for your sphere of influence - That the fear of the Lord would fall on your workplace, neighborhood, and family

Pray for perseverance - To finish strong in faith, not just start well

Closing Reflection

"You honor God with your life and He'll honor you for a lifetime."

Take a moment of silence to consider: What would your life look like if you were fully committed to God?

Close in prayer, asking God to help each person take one concrete step toward fuller commitment this week.

For Next Week

Come prepared to share one way you practiced fuller commitment to God and what you learned from the experience.