

2026-08-12 Small Group Guide

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Based on the Sermon: Like Father, Like Son -- Legacy, Worship, and Kingdom Living

2 Chronicles 20:24-21:6 | 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Overview

This sermon draws from the closing chapters of Jehoshaphat's reign and the opening of Jehoram's to explore themes of gratitude, worship, legacy, and the kind of life God calls us to build. The contrast between a father who sought God wholeheartedly and a son who abandoned that path raises urgent questions about what we are passing on, how we are living, and what will survive when God tests the quality of our work.

Key Takeaways

Gratitude should outlast the crisis. Jehoshaphat and his people did not simply move on after God delivered them. They lingered in praise until that valley became permanently associated with worship. Returning to thank God is not optional -- it is a mark of a people who truly understand what He has done.

Worship is a posture, not just a practice. The people praised God during the battle, after the battle, and again when they returned to Jerusalem. Sustained worship reflects a heart that is genuinely oriented toward God rather than toward comfort or convenience.

Legacy is built daily, not declared at the end. Jehoshaphat was a good king, but his son Jehoram walked in the ways of wickedness. The question the sermon raises is whether Jehoshaphat taught his children or simply had them. What we model and what we speak into the lives of those closest to us matters enormously.

Our lives are under construction. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3 remind us that we are building on a foundation of Christ -- but what we build on that foundation will be tested. Gold, silver, and costly stones survive. Wood, hay,

and straw do not.

Kingdom living is a daily choice. We can be physically present on this earth while being spiritually invested in God's kingdom. The two are not mutually exclusive, but they do require intentional priority.

Discussion Questions

Opening

Think of a time when God answered a prayer or delivered you from a difficult situation. How long did your gratitude last? What caused it to fade, if it did?

The sermon mentions the Valley of Barakah, which means "praise," named because the people lingered there to worship God after their victory. Is there a moment in your life that deserves its own "valley of praise" -- a memory you return to regularly in gratitude?

Digging Deeper

The preacher draws a contrast between Jehoshaphat, who "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord," and Jehoram, who "did evil in the eyes of the Lord." What does it practically look like to make decisions based on God's perspective rather than your own or the world's?

The sermon raises the question of whether Jehoshaphat taught his children or simply had them. What is the difference between those two things? How does that distinction apply beyond parenting -- to mentoring, discipleship, or influence in any relationship?

The preacher references Deuteronomy 6, where God instructs parents to speak of Him when rising, walking, eating, and lying down. What would it look like for your faith to be that naturally woven into your everyday conversations and habits?

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3 that the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If you honestly evaluated your life right now, what would you say is

surviving the fire and what might be burning up?

The sermon describes the tension between being an "earth dweller" and a "kingdom dweller." Where do you feel that tension most in your own life? What pulls you back toward earthly priorities?

Personal Reflection

The preacher encourages believers to go back and thank God -- even for things He did long ago -- with the same intensity they prayed during the crisis. Is there something in your past that deserves a fresh, deliberate act of gratitude?

The sermon suggests that one of the most powerful things you can do for the people you love is not tell them what to do, but tell them what God is still doing in you. Who in your life needs to hear that kind of honest, humble testimony from you?

The preacher asks whether we have people around us who we trust enough to say, "If you see me acting wrong, tell me." Do you have that kind of accountability in your life? If not, what is holding you back from seeking it?

Practical Applications

This week, choose at least one of the following:

Return to praise. Identify one specific thing God has done for you -- perhaps something you thanked Him for briefly and then moved past. Set aside intentional time this week to return to it in prayer and gratitude, and consider sharing it with someone.

Audit your building materials. Spend time in quiet reflection or journaling, asking God honestly: What am I building with? What in my life reflects gold, silver, and costly stones -- things invested in His kingdom? What reflects wood, hay, and straw -- things that are temporary and self-focused?

Speak your faith out loud. Identify one person in your life -- a child, a grandchild, a friend, a coworker -- and find a natural, non-preachy way to share something God is currently doing in you. Not a lecture. A testimony.

Invite accountability. Ask one trusted person in your life for permission to speak honestly into each other's lives. Be specific about what you are asking for and be willing to receive what they offer.

Practice sustained worship. Rather than limiting worship to Sunday mornings, choose one additional time this week -- a drive, a walk, a quiet morning -- to deliberately praise God. Not with a request. Simply with gratitude.

Closing Thought for the Group

The sermon closes with a sobering but hopeful image from 1 Corinthians 3. We will be saved, but what we built will be revealed. The goal is not fear -- it is clarity. God is not stingy with His rewards, and He is cheering us on. But He is also honest. What we invest in His kingdom matters. What we pour into the people around us matters. How we worship, how we live, and what we leave behind -- all of it matters.

The question is not whether God is faithful. He is. The question is whether we are building something worth showing Him.

Close your group time in prayer, asking God to make each member more aware this week of what they are building, who they are influencing, and how they can return to Him in genuine, sustained praise.