

2026-08-26 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide

Based on the Sermon: "He Didn't Have the Guts to Be Godly"

2 Chronicles 21

Overview

This sermon examines the life and reign of Jehoram, son of the godly King Jehoshaphat, and the tragic consequences of his rebellion against God. Through Jehoram's story, we are challenged to examine our own lives, consider the influence we have on others, and reflect on what it truly means to live for Christ rather than for ourselves.

Key Takeaways

1. Godly heritage does not guarantee godly living. Jehoram had every advantage — a faithful father, a strong kingdom, and a covenant-keeping God — yet he chose to walk away from all of it. Our spiritual background is a gift, not a guarantee.
2. God is faithful to his covenants even when we are not. Despite Jehoram's wickedness, God remembered his promise to David and withheld immediate destruction. God's patience and faithfulness far exceed our own.
3. Our lives influence others, for better or for worse. Jehoram did not simply live badly in private. He led an entire nation astray. The people around us are watching how we live, and our choices carry weight beyond what we often realize.
4. Ignoring God's warnings does not make them go away. Elijah's letter to Jehoram was a clear warning with an opportunity for repentance. Jehoram's refusal to respond did not cancel the consequences — it accelerated them.
5. Christ died so that we would no longer live for ourselves. As 2 Corinthians 5 reminds us, the love of Christ compels us to live not for our own desires but for the one who died and was raised for us.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Use this to get the group talking before diving into deeper content.

Think of a leader — in your family, your workplace, your community, or even in history — whose example genuinely shaped the way you lived or thought. What made their influence so powerful?

Digging Into the Text

These questions focus on the sermon content and the biblical passage.

Jehoram had a godly father in Jehoshaphat, yet he chose an entirely different path. What factors do you think contributed to that shift? What does this tell us about the limits of inherited faith?

The sermon pointed out that God withheld judgment on Jehoram because of the covenant he had made with David. What does this reveal about the character of God? How does knowing that God is a covenant-keeper affect the way you relate to him?

Elijah sent Jehoram a letter warning him of the consequences of his choices. Jehoram apparently ignored it entirely. Why do you think it is so easy to dismiss or minimize spiritual warnings? Have you ever received a warning — from Scripture, a friend, a pastor, or your own conscience — that you initially pushed aside?

The sermon described how Jehoram "led Judah astray" — his personal choices had national consequences. In what ways do you think individual spiritual compromise can affect the people immediately around us, even if we think our choices are private?

Felix in Acts 24 became afraid when Paul preached about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, and he told Paul to stop. In what ways do we sometimes do the same thing — shutting down conviction before

it can do its work in us?

Going Deeper

These questions encourage personal reflection and honest conversation.

The pastor said, "You'll throw God away before he throws you away." How does that statement sit with you? Does it bring comfort, challenge, or both?

The sermon challenged the idea that we have little influence on others. Do you tend to underestimate your influence, or do you feel the weight of it? How does recognizing your influence change the way you think about your daily choices?

2 Corinthians 5 says we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ for things done while in the body, good or bad. The pastor said this should not paralyze us with fear but should motivate us toward readiness. How does the reality of personal accountability before Christ shape the way you think about your choices this week?

The sermon closed with the idea that Christ gave up what he could have desired in order to do something undesirable, because he loved us. Where in your own life is God calling you to give something up or do something difficult out of love for him or for others?

Communion Reflection

If your group shares communion together, use this question beforehand.

The pastor said communion is a reminder that Christ, the perfect, died for the not-so-perfect, so that we could become godly children of God. As you prepare to take communion, what is one area of your life where you need to receive that grace freshly tonight?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to act on before your group meets

again.

1. Examine your influence. Identify two or three people in your life who are watching how you live. This week, make one intentional choice with those people in mind — something that points them toward Christ rather than away from him.
2. Respond to a warning. If there is an area of your life where God has been speaking to you through Scripture, a friend, or your conscience, and you have been slow to respond, take a concrete step this week to address it. Write it down, pray over it, and share it with a trusted person for accountability.
3. Live for him, not for yourself. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 slowly each morning this week. Let the reality that Christ died for you shape one specific decision each day — at work, at home, or in a relationship.
4. Pray for someone who needs to hear. Think of one person in your life who needs to encounter the real God. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week, and ask God for one natural opportunity to represent him well in front of that person.
5. Write your own chapter. The sermon reminded us that we are all writing a book with our lives, one chapter every day. Journal this week about what the current chapter of your life says about your relationship with Christ. Is it a chapter you would be proud to have read?

Closing Prayer Points

Close your group time by praying together over the following:

Pray for Mark Grantham's continued recovery and full acceptance of his new lungs, and for his family walking through this with him.

Pray for the family of the donor whose gift made Mark's transplant possible.

Pray for each group member to have the courage to live openly and unashamedly for Christ in their spheres of influence.

Pray for faithfulness and endurance, whatever challenges may lie ahead.
Thank God for his patience, his covenant faithfulness, and the gift of his Son.

"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it." 2 Corinthians 5:9