

2026-08-05 Small Group Guide

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Based on the Sermon on 2 Chronicles 19 and the Life of Jehoshaphat

Overview

This sermon draws from the account of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 19, using his example to challenge believers to examine the depth and quality of their own walk with God. The pastor raises a central question throughout: if God were writing a book about your life, what would he have to write? The sermon calls believers away from comfortable, predictable Christianity and toward a life of genuine seeking, obedience, and influence for the kingdom of God.

Key Takeaways

Jehoshaphat's greatest commendation was not his political success or military record, but that he set his heart on seeking God.

Going out among the people to turn their hearts toward God was not just the job of a king. It reflects the heart of anyone who genuinely loves God and the people around them.

The fear of the Lord is not terror but the deepest form of reverence, and it is the foundation for faithful service, honest judgment, and courageous living.

American Christianity has a tendency toward comfort, routine, and self-focus. The sermon challenges believers to ask whether they are living for convenience or for the kingdom.

Obedience, like Philip's in Acts 8, does not always require full explanation from God. It requires a heart so tuned to God that it moves when he says move.

The Lord's Supper is a reminder not only of Christ's sacrifice but of the kind of surrendered, others-focused life he modeled.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think back to the early days of your faith. What was different about how you approached God, people, and your daily life then compared to now? What changed, and why?

Digging Into the Text

In 2 Chronicles 19, Jehu the seer confronted Jehoshaphat about his alliance with the wicked King Ahab, but also acknowledged that Jehoshaphat had set his heart on seeking God. What does it mean practically to set your heart on seeking God, as opposed to simply attending church or following religious habits?

Jehoshaphat went out among the people, from one end of the kingdom to the other, with the purpose of turning their hearts back to the Lord. He did not stay in the palace. What does it look like for an ordinary believer today to get among the people with the same purpose?

The judges Jehoshaphat appointed were told to remember they were not judging for man but for the Lord. How does keeping God as your primary audience change the way you make decisions, treat people, or handle difficult situations at work, at home, or in relationships?

The phrase "the fear of the Lord" appears multiple times in Jehoshaphat's instructions to the judges. How would you describe the fear of the Lord in your own words? What would your daily life look like if you genuinely lived with that kind of reverence?

The pastor referenced Philip in Acts 8, who left a thriving revival to walk down a deserted road simply because the Spirit told him to, without explanation. Has there been a moment in your life when you sensed God asking you to do something without giving you all the details first? What did you do, and what happened?

Personal Reflection Questions

The pastor asked, "If God were writing a book about your life, what would he have to write?" If you are honest with yourself, how many chapters would there be that reflect genuine faith, obedience, and kingdom impact? How many chapters would simply reflect routine and comfort?

The sermon noted that statistically, more people influence others toward Christ in the first six months of their faith than in all the years that follow. Does that ring true in your experience? What has shifted over time, and what do you think is behind that shift?

The pastor said, "We always decide according to how we feel more than we do according to what we believe." Where in your life is that most true right now? What would it look like to make a decision based on what you believe rather than how you feel?

He also asked whether we only seek God when we need something, or whether we genuinely love him and seek him consistently. How would you honestly answer that question for yourself?

Challenge Question

The sermon closed with this thought: there are still hours, days, months, and years remaining. What would it look like to give the pen to God and let him write a new chapter in your life starting now? What would you need to let go of, and what would you need to step into?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One or More of the Following:

Pray a courageous prayer. Ask God to break your heart where it needs to be broken, even in areas you cannot currently see. Write down anything that surfaces and bring it back to the group next week.

Identify your sphere of influence. Make a list of the people in your regular life, family, coworkers, neighbors, friends. Pray over each name and ask God whether you are making a genuine difference in their lives or simply coexisting with them. Ask him if there is one person he wants you to reach out to this week.

Practice obedience without full explanation. When you sense a nudge this week to call someone, say something encouraging, pray for a stranger, or take a step you have been putting off, act on it without waiting for complete

certainty. Bring the story back to the group.

Memorize and meditate on a verse about the fear of the Lord. Consider Proverbs 9:10, which speaks of the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom, or Psalm 111:10. Sit with it throughout the week and ask God what it means for your life specifically.

Evaluate your chapter. Take 15 to 20 minutes this week in a quiet place and write out, honestly, what God would have to work with if he were writing the current chapter of your life. What is happening? What is missing? What do you want to be different? Bring your reflections to the group, sharing only what you are comfortable sharing.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together along these themes drawn from the sermon:

That God would give each person a genuine desire to seek him, not out of obligation but out of love

That the fear of the Lord would become a real and living reality in each person's daily decisions

That each person would identify at least one person in their life they are called to influence toward God

That the group as a whole would move from comfortable, predictable Christianity toward lives that give God something worth writing about

2 Chronicles 19 | Acts 8 | 1 Corinthians | Matthew 22:37-38 | Proverbs 9:10