

## Prophets and Kings Discussion Questions 4.24.16

### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### Questions

#### **Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. How is the Temple that Solomon built reflective of God's creation of the world?
2. What makes a place holy?

### Background

Following the demonstration of his wisdom found in chapter 3 there is a general description of how good things were in Israel now that Solomon was king. There was plenty of food for everyone and the members of Solomon's court were living lavishly. There was no one with more wisdom than Solomon and people came from near and far to listen to him. With this period of unprecedented peace Solomon was able to begin making preparations for building the Temple that would become the earthly dwelling place for the Lord. Solomon maintained solid relationships with the leaders around him particularly with Hiram the King of Tyre for within Hiram's kingdom they had the most talented loggers in the land.

The need for skilled craftsmen, not just the loggers, becomes evident when reading the description of the temple. The temple built by Solomon would have been the biggest, most intricate and beautiful building any Israelite had seen. To give an idea of the scale of the operation that went on for seven years in chapter 5 the text says Solomon conscripted 30,000 men to help with gathering raw materials from Lebanon, 70,000 carriers and 80,000 stone cutters working on quarrying the blocks that would be used to build the temple.

### Read 1 Kings 6

#### **Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. What supplies were used most often in building the temple?
2. What part of the temple was the most important?
3. How many sections are there to the main temple? What was built around the temple?
4. How long did it take to build the temple?
5. What did the Lord say to Solomon in verses 11-13?

#### **Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. If you had seen the temple Solomon built what language do you think you would use to describe it?
2. What, if anything, changed in the relationship between God and Israel with the building of a new permanent home for the Lord - the temple?
  - Nothing changed, the requirement remained of Israel to be faithful to the commands of their God. However, once the temple was completed it became difficult for the people to

remember that the temple was not a promise of God's unwavering protection despite their actions. A school of thought developed that said as long as the temple is standing Israel will be safe because that is where the Lord lives.

3. How is the temple reflective of what God intended for the world?
  - The temple, much like the whole earth, was designed to draw people in to worship the one true God.
4. Why is so much importance put on the description of the most holy part of the temple?

**Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. How can Hillcrest become a place that draws people into worship of the one, true King?
2. How do we, as the people who make up Hillcrest Chapel, embrace that God has called us to relationship with him and with those around us? What actions does this knowledge move you to take?
3. What about the temple moved people to worship? Is there a lesson for us today? If so, what??

Closing

Spend some time as you finish your evening to share prayer requests and pray for one another. It is important to remember to seek out opportunities to reflect the beauty and love of Jesus to those who are around you.

Reminder: We are called to live in such a way that those around us recognize that we are patterning our lives after someone who is different. When we choose the world over our compassionate God we are on a path that leads us nowhere good. Even then, our God chooses to pursue us with love and call us back to relationship with him.