

9.11.16 Prophet and Kings Discussion Questions

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. Share an experience of a time when you read something in scripture and it moved you to action.
2. How do you feel when you read the laws found in the Old Testament?

Background

We are nearing the end of the retelling of Israel's history in the two books of Kings. At this point the Northern Kingdom has been defeated and the majority of the people have been sent off to exile by the king of Assyria. The Southern Kingdom has survived but they too are wandering far from the ways of their God. Josiah is made king when he is eight years old because his father Amon was killed. 2 Kings 21 tells us that Amon was not a good king (he worshipped false gods and idols made by human hands) in fact the texts makes it clear Amon followed all the ways of his father. Our story picks up when Josiah has been king for 18 years.

Read 2 Kings 22

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

1. According to verse 2, whose ways did Josiah follow?
2. What did Josiah direct Hilkiah to do?
3. What was Josiah's response when the Book of the Law was read to him?
4. What was God's response to Josiah's repentance and grief?

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

1. What does it look like today to trust people the way Josiah did when he turned over the money to the people doing the repairs on the Temple?
2. How do we fix our eyes on Jesus so that we, like Josiah, are referred to as people who do everything like their Father in heaven?
3. Most likely, none of us are royalty, but we all have areas of life where we exert authority. How do we use our authority to create a world where Jesus is the role model?

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

1. Josiah was moved to action by hearing the Book of the Law. How often are we moved to action by hearing about the grace that is available to us through the blood of Jesus?
2. What do we need to do to take the next step toward being more like Jesus?
3. How do we avoid becoming indifferent to the fact that we have access to God's Word?

Closing

Take time to pray together and for one another, that we would each feel the full impact of how amazing it is that we have easy access to God's Word and that it would move us to action.

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.