

Prophets and Kings Discussion Questions 4.10.16

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. If given the opportunity to ask God for your heart's desire, what would you ask for?
2. Share a story of a time when God provided you with even more than you asked him for?

Background

The book of 1 Kings picks up the history of Israel roughly where 2 Samuel leaves off, at the end of David's life. 1 Kings opens with the story of the second oldest son (Adonijah) declaring himself King of Israel since David was too old to rule any longer. Adonijah was next in line to be king since his older brother Absalom was killed when he led a coup against David. While Adonijah had the support of many leaders he did not have the support of those closest to David which included Nathan the prophet. Nathan approached Bathsheba (Solomon's mother) and let her know what was happening. She then went to David to fill him in on the latest happenings in his kingdom and remind him of the promise he had made to her that Solomon would be king after David. Nathan also supported David making Solomon king. After discussing with Nathan David again promised to make Solomon king after him.

Our section of this story takes place as David is dying. He met with Solomon to make sure he know what was going to be asked of him as king. He reminded Solomon that the Lord requires him to be obedient and follow his commands.

Read 1 Kings 2:1-4 and 3:1-15

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

1. What did David tell Solomon God would require of him?
2. Who did Solomon make an alliance with via marriage?
3. What does Solomon ask for when God tells him to ask for whatever he wants?
4. How does God react to Solomon's request?

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

1. In our world today what value is there in following the directive given to Solomon by David?
2. Do you think wisdom is something worth asking God for when you are not the ruler of a country? Is it still worth asking for, even today?
3. How do you think God would respond to you if you asked for wisdom?
4. Why is it important to know the Law even though we live under grace as a result of Jesus's death and resurrection?

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

1. What does it look like when we watch how we live, and walk faithfully before God with all our heart and soul?
2. There was never another king like Solomon yet despite all his wisdom, he was far from perfect. Only Jesus is the perfect embodiment of wisdom and truth. How can we use Solomon as a cautionary tale and Jesus as our role model for how to live?
3. Repeatedly throughout Scripture examples abound that show us God is a Father who delights in giving good gifts to his children. Why then do you think we so often pray timidly and do not boldly ask for those good gifts?
4. What steps do we need to take to move beyond living like Solomon to being more like Jesus?

Closing

As you finish your time together spend a few minutes checking in to see what good gifts you can join with one another in prayer about. Take time before you leave to pray together asking for the wisdom and strength to walk each day moving closer to Jesus as the perfect example of how to live.

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.