

8.21.16 Prophets and Kings

Discussion Questions

Background

This chapter captures the story of the final defeat of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by the king of Assyria. Repeatedly the author makes it clear what caused the destruction and casting out of the people of the Northern Kingdom. It was common practice for kings to send conquered people into exile in foreign lands to keep them from rising up against the king again. Once the original people were gone then other groups of people would be moved into the area. This is what happens in chapter 17, the Northern Kingdom is exiled and new people are settled in Samaria and they too worship other gods.

Read 2 Kings 17

After reading the text together answer some of the following discussion questions.

1. Why is the Northern Kingdom cast out from God's presence by being sent into exile?
2. Why did the people of the Northern Kingdom continue to ignore the covenant with the Lord and worship idols?
3. Why is it so easy to trust in things rather than in God?
4. How is this story played out in our world today?
5. How do we make the same mistakes and rebel against God in the same ways?
6. Why is it so important to avoid getting caught up in the distractions of our world?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this story?

Finish by praying together.

Reminder: 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.