

This is Us: A Prophet of the Lord

October 9, 2022

PREPARATION

Study

Spend the week studying 2 Chronicles 28:1-15.

Pray

Pray for the upcoming group time, your group members, and their openness to God's Word.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group.

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

LANDING POINT

God calls us to stand for what we believe in humility and grace.

INTRODUCTION

This is Us

The times change, but people remain the same. Over the next few weeks, we are going to look at some of the kings of Judah as presented in the book of 2 Chronicles. As we read about their pains, struggles and obstacles, we will remember that they are not much different than us. This bible book shares the good, bad, and ugly about their lives and provides examples to follow as well as those to avoid. We live in different times and eras, but at our core, we still fight the same fights and struggle with the same struggles...and we have the chance to experience and serve the same God!



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Warning, Challenge, and Grace

Solomon Asch was a pioneer in social psychology. He was born in Poland in 1907 and later moved to the United States. Asch received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1932 and went on to perform famous psychological experiments about conformity in the 1950s. He famously did a study where he put people into groups of 12, and 11 of the 12 were told to answer a question wrongly. After 11 of the people in the group gave the wrong answer, Asch found that 75% of the people who were left would conform to the rest of the group and give a wrong answer. What about you? Do you go along to get along, or do you lovingly and graciously stand for what you believe? Do you have faith that can stand against the majority for the things you know are right?

As we look at the story of King Ahaz in 2 Chronicles 28 we can receive 3 words around the call God gives us to live a life that goes upstream:

1. A Word of Warning
2. A Word of Challenge
3. A Word of Grace

Q - Warning - Read 2 Chronicles 28:1-8 and 2 Chronicles 15:2b. What descriptors are given of King Ahaz's leadership? What warning was given in 2 Chronicles 15:2 that gives insight into the repercussions of King Ahaz's leadership?

Q - Challenge - Read 2 Chronicles 28:9-11. Who was Oded and how did He stand up in truth? How do Oded's actions contrast to King Ahaz's actions?

Q - Challenge - Read 2 Chronicles 28:14-15. How did the leaders of Israel swim upstream? What is the difference in standing up with our words versus standing up in both word and action?

APPLICATION AND NEXT STEPS

Swimming Upstream

When reading 2 Chronicles 28, it can be easy to read the story as history instead of applying the word of God to our lives today. We may not be Kings leading God's people, or prophets delivering a difficult word, but we are men and women who are called to live differently and not conform to the ways of this world. As we read the scripture it is important to not just study it but ask God to help us apply it to our every day lives. Use the questions below to transparently share where you are today and discuss as a group where you desire to continue growing into Christlikeness.



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Q -Warning - Read Matthew 13:41-43. What sobering warning can we take heed of today? How should this warning affect our day-to-day lives?

Q - Challenge - Jesus lovingly and graciously took stands against the ways of the world (Matthew 19:3-6, Matthew 5:43-44). What are some areas in our world today that we may need to be prepared to lovingly take a stand? Are there any areas in your personal life?

Q. - Challenge - It is important to make sure we are taking a stand in humility and not deceiving ourselves (Matthew 7:3-5). How can we practice "first taking the log out of our own eye"? How does practicing this kind of humility empower us to take a stand?

Q - Grace - Chip referenced his practice of asking who he is most like in stories he reads in scripture. When you reflect on the story we read in 2 Chronicles, who (King Ahaz, Oded, the men of Ephraim or the people of Judah) do you most relate to and why?

Q - Grace - Read Colossians 1:13-14. How did Jesus' life of swimming upstream give us ultimate hope for when we fall short? How can you be intentional to rest in His grace today?

Prayer: Break up in groups of 2 or 3 and share with each other where you need to be strengthened to take a stand. After each person has shared pray for one another.

