

How to Use Sermon Resources

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer [2 mins]

Use the Overview [5 mins]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

Scripture Deep Dive [30-40 mins]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

Close in Prayer

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

Split Time (if applicable)

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

SERMON OVERVIEW

“Warnings from Jehu to You” - 2 Kings 9-10

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores 2 Kings 9-10, examining the story of Jehu and the fulfillment of God's judgment against the house of Ahab and Jezebel. The message centers on two critical warnings: first, that God will not ignore sin forever, and second, that it's possible to do things for God while maintaining a divided heart toward Him. The message challenges believers to examine whether they are truly devoted to God with an undivided heart or merely going through religious motions while harboring unaddressed sin.

Key Points:

- God will not ignore sin forever—His judgment may be delayed but is certain and thorough
- Every person will stand before God and give account for every thought, word, and deed
- The only hope for escaping God's just judgment is pleading the blood of Christ
- It is possible to do things for God while maintaining a divided heart toward Him
- Warning signs of a divided heart include: doing things for God without being with God, actions that only align with personal agenda, and focusing on correcting others while ignoring personal sin
- True devotion to God requires saying "I do" to following Jesus and "I don't" to sin
- Believers must examine whether there are sins they refuse to abandon despite claiming to follow Christ
- The story of Ahab and Jezebel demonstrates that sin has collateral damage affecting future generations
- God's wrath and judgment should motivate believers toward evangelism and worship

Scripture Reference:

2 Kings 9:1-37

2 Kings 10:1-31

Psalm 86:11

Stories:

- Pastor Matt's experience at a disciple-making lab in Kitty Hawk, where he and other pastors ignored double red flag warnings to play in dangerous ocean waves with a boogie board, illustrating how we sometimes ignore warnings despite potential consequences
- The biblical account of Ahab and Jezebel's plot to steal Naboth's vineyard through false accusations and murder (1 Kings 21), setting up the context for God's judgment
- Elisha sending a young prophet to anoint Jehu as king with instructions to deliver the message and immediately flee
- Jehu's dramatic ride to Jezreel, driving "like a madman," recognizable by his reckless driving style
- The confrontation and killing of King Jehoram, whose body was thrown on Naboth's former property, fulfilling God's prophecy
- The elimination of 70 sons of Ahab, whose severed heads were delivered and stacked at the city gates
- The premarital counseling illustration about marriage vows, comparing saying "I do" to one person while saying "I don't" to everyone else, paralleling our commitment to Christ versus our refusal to abandon certain sins

Scripture Deep Dive

Opening question:

Think of a time when you saw someone show a lot of zeal (energy, passion) for something that later turned out to be misguided or incomplete. What made it hard in the moment to see that their zeal was not fully aligned with what was right?

Warning 1 – God will not ignore sin forever

1. Read: 2 Kings 9:30–37

Question: When you think about standing before a just God who will call every thought, word, and action into account, what is one specific area of your life that you know you would not want exposed as it is right now, and what is one concrete step you need to take this week to bring that into the light (confession, repentance, accountability, or restitution)?

2. Read: 2 Kings 9:7–10

Question: If you really believed that God’s judgment is both certain and personal for every individual, how would that realistically change the way you pray for and pursue one unbelieving friend, family member, or coworker this month, and what is one specific evangelistic action you will commit to take with that person?

3. Read: 2 Kings 10:10–11

Question: The sermon emphasized that our only hope on the day of judgment is to “plead the blood of Christ” rather than our own record. In your daily life, where do you most tend to functionally rely on your performance (good works, religious activity, moral record) instead of resting in Christ’s finished work, and what is one practice you can build in this week to reorient your heart (e.g., a specific gospel passage, a daily prayer of dependence)?

Warning 2 – It is possible to do things for God with a divided heart toward God

4. Read: 2 Kings 10:28–31

Question: Jehu did many things “for God” but we never see him “with God,” whereas David prays for an undivided mind and heart in Psalm 86:11. Looking at your current week, what does your schedule reveal about doing for God versus being with God, and what one practical change (time block, habit, or boundary) will you make in the next seven days to prioritize being with Him?

5. Read: 2 Kings 10:18–23, 28–29

Question: The sermon highlighted that Jehu's obedience lined up conveniently with his own agenda and that he focused on other people's sin while leaving his own untouched. Where do you see a similar pattern in your life right now (quick to correct others but slow to repent personally), and what is one specific sin you need to say a clear "I don't" to this week, including how you will actually cut it off in practice?

6. Read: 2 Kings 10:29–31 (especially "...not careful to follow the instruction of the Lord...with all his heart")

Question: The marriage-vows picture showed that saying "I do" to Jesus also means saying "I don't" to competing loves. If you were brutally honest, what "Tuesday or Friday" area (habit, relationship, secret pattern, or comfort) are you still reserving for yourself, and what concrete step will you take in the next 24–48 hours to surrender that area fully to Christ rather than continuing to live with a divided heart?

5 Day Devotional

Day 1 – A Long-Memory God

Reading: 2 Kings 9:1–13, 2 Peter 3:9–10

Devotion: Elisha sends a young prophet to secretly anoint Jehu as king and to announce judgment on Ahab's house. This moment fulfills a word spoken years earlier in 1 Kings 21, reminding us that God never forgets His promises—whether of salvation or judgment. Human leaders come and go, but God's word stands unchanged across generations. His apparent delay is not forgetfulness; it is patience, giving space for repentance before the day of reckoning.

Reflect/Pray: Where might you be confusing God's patience with His approval in your life? Ask God to show you any area where you are presuming upon His patience and to give you a heart that responds with repentance instead of complacency.

Day 2 – You Never Sin in a Vacuum

Reading: 2 Kings 9:14–37, Galatians 6:7–8

Devotion: Jehu confronts and kills Jehoram and Ahaziah, and Jezebel meets the exact end God had foretold. Ahab's sin has now reached into the next generation; his son dies on the very plot of land stolen from Naboth. This tragic scene shows that sin always has a ripple effect—its consequences stretch farther than we imagine. God's justice may move slowly in our eyes, but it moves surely and precisely.

Reflect/Pray: Consider one way someone else's sin has affected you, and one way your own sin has affected others. Ask the Lord both for healing where you have been hurt and for a holy fear that keeps you from treating your own sin lightly.

Day 3 – When Zeal and Judgment Collide

Reading: 2 Kings 10:1–17, Romans 12:19

Devotion: Jehu continues his mission by eliminating Ahab's remaining descendants and allies. While he is clearly an instrument of God's justice, Hosea 1:4 later indicates that Jehu himself is not innocent in the way he carries it out. God can use a person without endorsing that person's heart, motives, or methods. We are reminded that vengeance belongs to the Lord alone, and our calling is to trust His justice rather than take it into our own hands.

Reflect/Pray: Are there people or situations where you secretly wish harm or "payback" rather than praying for mercy and justice from God? Bring those names and situations to the Lord and release your desire for revenge into His hands.

Day 4 – Destroying One Idol While Keeping Another

Reading: 2 Kings 10:18–28, Colossians 3:5–8

Devotion: Jehu stages a clever trap to gather all the prophets and servants of Baal, then has them wiped out and Baal's temple destroyed. On the surface, it looks like a sweeping spiritual victory for Israel. Yet eliminating one form of false worship does not automatically mean the heart is fully devoted to God; idolatry can simply shift its shape. God is not only interested in what we tear down, but in Who we truly worship and obey.

Reflect/Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there are any "old idols" you've left standing even as you've turned from more obvious sins. Pray: "Lord, don't just remove what is outwardly wrong in my life; lead me to love You above all else in every area."

Day 5 – Doing Things for God with a Divided Heart

Reading: 2 Kings 10:29–36, James 1:22–25

Devotion: Jehu eliminated Baal worship, but 2 Kings records that he clung to Jeroboam’s golden calves and did not follow the Lord with all his heart. He did impressive things “for God,” yet remained partially committed, keeping certain sins untouched. It is possible to be busy in religious activity, even used by God, while harboring a divided heart. God desires not just external obedience, but whole-hearted devotion that hears His word and actually lives it.

Reflect/Pray: In what part of your life are you most tempted to be a “hearer” of God’s word but not a “doer”? Ask God for an undivided heart (Psalm 86:11), and choose one concrete act of obedience you will take this week in response to what He has shown you.