

## Small Group Guide: The Fate of Ahaziah

Based on 2 Kings 1



### Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth, and to help each person honestly examine where they place their trust.

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### Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you faced a crisis or difficult situation. What was your first response? Who or what did you turn to for help?

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### Key Scripture

**2 Kings 1:2-4, 16** *"Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and was injured. So he sent messengers and said to them, 'Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury.' But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah... 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub?'"*

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## Key Takeaways

1. **What we seek in crisis reveals what we truly worship** - Our first response in difficulty shows where our faith really lies.
  2. **Rejecting God equals death; repentance equals life** - The fundamental choice that determines our eternal fate.
  3. **There is a spiritual battle happening all around us** - We must not lose sight of the supernatural reality beyond the physical world.
  4. **Pride and self-reliance prevent us from seeing our need for God** - Ahaziah's story shows the danger of trusting ourselves over God.
  5. **If you don't change, neither does your fate** - Repentance is necessary for transformation.
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. What was Ahaziah's primary mistake when he fell and was injured? Why do you think he chose to seek Baal-zebub instead of God?
2. How did Elijah's response to the king's messengers demonstrate God's authority? What does the fire from heaven symbolize?
3. What was different about the third captain's approach to Elijah compared to the first two? What does this teach us?

### Personal Reflection

4. The sermon states: "Prayer is often our last resort rather than our first response." When has this been true in your life? What prevents prayer from being your first response?
5. Consider the contrast between **Proverbs 3:5-6** ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart") and **Jeremiah 17:9** ("The heart is deceitful above all things"). How do these work together? How can we trust our hearts to God while not trusting in ourselves?
6. Reflecting on Church history, in the West we focus on the intellectual/legal understanding of salvation but often miss the spiritual/mysterious aspect. Do you agree? How have you experienced both dimensions in your faith?

## Going Deeper

7. Ahaziah had multiple opportunities to repent but refused each time. What are some warning signs that someone is hardening their heart against God rather than softening toward Him?
  8. The sermon asks: "Did you put your faith in Jesus or yourself?" How would you honestly answer that question today? In what areas of life do you still struggle to fully trust God?
  9. Ahaziah's refusal to change didn't just affect him—it cost the lives of 100 soldiers. How does our rejection of God impact those around us?
  10. Facing mortality should cause us to see the "big picture" (referencing Ecclesiastes). How does contemplating your own mortality change your perspective on what matters?
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: First Response Audit

- Each time you face a problem, decision, or crisis this week (big or small), pause and notice your first instinct. Write it down.
- Before taking action, pray first—even if it feels unnatural.
- At the end of the week, review your list. What patterns do you notice about where you naturally turn?

#### Option 2: Spiritual Awareness Exercise

- Set aside 10 minutes each day for spiritual reflection.
- Ask God to open your eyes to the spiritual realities around you—both His presence and the enemy's attacks.
- Journal about moments when you sensed spiritual warfare or God's supernatural work.

### **Option 3: Repentance Inventory**

- Identify one area where you've been trusting in yourself rather than God (finances, relationships, career, health, etc.).
- Write out a specific prayer of repentance, acknowledging your self-reliance.
- Share this with one trusted person who can pray for you and hold you accountable.

### **Option 4: Mortality Reflection**

- Spend time this week seriously contemplating your own mortality (not morbidly, but honestly).
  - Ask yourself: "If I died today, what would matter? What am I living for?"
  - Write your reflections and share them with the group next time.
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### **Group Activity**

#### **"What Do You Seek?" Exercise**

1. Have each person write down their top 3 "go-to" responses when facing:
    - Financial stress
    - Relationship conflict
    - Health concerns
    - Career uncertainty
    - Spiritual dryness
  2. Share your lists with the group (as comfortable).
  3. Discuss: How many of these responses involve turning to God first? How many involve trying to solve it ourselves?
  4. Pray together, asking God to help make Him your first response rather than your last resort.
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## Memory Verse

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

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## Closing Reflection

The story of Ahaziah is tragic because it didn't have to end that way. He had multiple opportunities to turn to God, but his pride, self-reliance, and hardness of heart kept him from repenting.

The question for us is: Will we learn from his mistake?

## Final Questions:

- Is there an area where God is calling you to repent today?
  - What needs to change so that your fate can change?
  - Will you put your faith in Jesus or yourself?
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## Closing Prayer

Close by praying for each group member by name, asking God to:

- Reveal areas of self-reliance and pride
  - Give grace to repent and turn toward Him
  - Make prayer and dependence on God the first response
  - Open eyes to the spiritual realities around us
  - Draw each person closer to Jesus through sanctification
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## 5-Day Devotional: The Path of Repentance and True Worship



### Day 1: When Crisis Reveals Your God

**Reading:** Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 17:9-10

#### **Devotional:**

King Ahaziah's fall through the lattice revealed more than physical injury—it exposed the god he truly served. In our moments of desperation, we discover what we genuinely worship. Do we first reach for our phones, our bank accounts, or our own solutions? Or do we turn immediately to God in prayer? The heart is deceitfully wicked, leading us toward self-reliance. Yet God calls us to trust Him with all our hearts, not leaning on our own understanding. Today, examine your instinctive responses to trouble. What do they reveal about your true object of worship? Let God be your first response, not your last resort.

## **Day 2: The Illusion of Control**

**Reading:** Ecclesiastes 1:1-14; James 4:13-17

### **Devotional:**

Ahaziah believed his royal authority gave him control over his circumstances and even over spiritual realities. Solomon, the wealthiest king in history, discovered that all earthly power is ultimately vanity—chasing after wind. We cannot control our mortality, our legacy, or tomorrow's outcomes. This truth should humble us, not terrify us. When we release our illusion of control and acknowledge God's sovereignty, we find peace. Our power, influence, and plans mean nothing "under the sun," but everything changes when we live for what is "above the sun." Surrender your need for control today. Trust that God holds what you cannot grasp.

## **Day 3: Repentance: The 180-Degree Turn**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 1:1-4; Acts 3:19-20

### **Devotional:**

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry—it is a complete mental and spiritual reversal. Ahaziah had multiple opportunities to turn toward God, yet he persistently sought answers elsewhere. Each messenger, each warning, each miracle was an invitation to change direction. Repentance equals life; rejection equals death. This is the consistent biblical message from Eden to Revelation. God's patience provides opportunity after opportunity for us to turn around. Have you been ignoring His invitations? Is there an area where you keep running away from God rather than toward Him? Today is your opportunity for a 180-degree turn. Repentance brings refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

## **Day 4: The Spiritual Battle Around Us**

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9

### **Devotional:**

We live in a world that has lost sight of the mysterious and spiritual. Yet Scripture consistently reveals that a cosmic battle rages around us. Ahaziah didn't just make a political mistake—he engaged with demonic forces while rejecting God's protection. The enemy prowls, seeking whom he may devour, while the Holy Spirit guides us toward truth. We cannot afford to be merely intellectual about our faith while ignoring spiritual realities. Put on the full armor of God daily. Recognize that your struggles are often not merely physical or emotional but spiritual. Stand firm in Christ's victory, aware and alert to the battle.

## **Day 5: Faith in Jesus or Faith in Yourself**

**Reading:** John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14

### **Devotional:**

The ultimate question facing every human is simple yet profound: Will you place your faith in Jesus or in yourself? Ahaziah's tragic end reminds us that not every story has a happy ending. Many choose the wide path of self-reliance, self-wisdom, and self-salvation. But Jesus declared Himself the exclusive way to the Father. This isn't religious exclusivity—it's divine reality. Justification comes through faith in Christ's finished work, then sanctification draws us daily closer to Him. Examine your heart honestly today: Where does your ultimate trust rest? Are you depending on your understanding, your goodness, your efforts? Or have you surrendered completely to Jesus as both Savior and Lord? Choose the narrow gate.