

"A NEW NORMAL" | 5/17/2020

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WARM-UP: Engage ("Together")

1. In a few sentences, share a time or experience where things went differently than you thought they would? (**leader example** "drinking out of a cup, different liquid inside than thought")

WORD: Establish ("Truth")

Leader: Questions below (a.b.c) should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage will answer them as well.

1. **Read** 2 Chronicles 20:1-13:
 - a. Ask group members to quickly (1-2 minutes) recap what's happening in the story.
 - b. What is the challenge facing Jehosaphat and the people of Judah?
 - c. What do their first responses tell us about their relationship with God/their circumstances/their enemies?
2. **Read** 2 Chronicles 20:14-21:
 - a. How does God reveal a plan to them? (v.14)
 - b. What does God command them to do? (v. 15-17)
 - c. How do Jehosaphat and the Levitical priests respond to God's word? (v. 18-21)
3. **Read** 2 Chronicles 20:22-30:
 - a. What does God's favor do on their behalf, as they praise him? (v. 22-23)
 - b. How did God's people's circumstances change after God fought their battle? (v. 24-26)
 - c. How did God's people show their gratitude? (v. 27-28)
 - d. How did neighboring nations respond/perceive God as a result? (v. 29-30)

APPLICATION: Equip ("Way")

1. What part of this story challenges your relationship with God/your actions today?
2. How will you live differently today/this week, as a result?
3. **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** We often believe it is possible to go back to "the way things were". To how we expected them to go. To times where our circumstances were better. This world moment has perpetuated this lie. The truth is, we can only embrace "the new normal" of what God is doing in our lives **TODAY**. Or we can choose not to do so. God is calling us to live fully into how he wants us to be present with us. Following him and living differently in the world, as your new normal. Every day has new challenges for doing so. We never "make it" but always need God to grow and change us. This reality is not contingent upon circumstances. It is a life built by choosing to live **present** to the Spirit through obedience to God's word. A community trusting God to fight our battles when we can't yet see the victory, through **praise** and **prayer**.

PRAYER Empower ("Life" in the Spirit)

1. How can we pray/hold you accountable to "be present with God's Spirit" as "your new normal"?