

**Main Idea:** A discerning mind is invaluable in a difficult environment.

### Discernment

Ours is a complex and complicated environment. The age of relativism and post-modernism have perverted truth and watered down common sense. In our culture good has become evil and evil has become good. A discerning mind or spirit has become a necessary tool to navigate the choppy waters of popular culture.

- ✓ **discernment = discrimination, insight, perception**

### King Who?

**King Jehoshaphat** was king of Judah from 873-848 B.C. He was loved and respected, a true godly king. He was the kind of man that learned from his mistakes – a man of discernment. In 2Chronicles 18, Jehoshaphat finds himself in a predicament. We can learn from his example.

- 1. Relationships can Bless You or Burn You (vv.1-3).** Jehoshaphat's son and daughter-in-law surely brought him blessing, but his relationship with Ahab almost got him burned. Every close relationship you have can be a blessing to you or a curse. You can be built up by a solid relationship or burned down by a toxic relationship.
- 2. Truth can Hurt before it Helps (vv.12-17).** Jehoshaphat wanted the truth from God before he went any further. That's why he called for Miciah. But neither he nor Ahab responded because they didn't like the sound of it.
- 3. Loyalties can be Productive or Destructive (vv.30-31).** Loyalty to the proper cause is not only constructive, but it can also become heroic. However, misplaced loyalty could cost you more than you are willing to pay.

### 3 Lists

- ❑ **What is required of me by God?** Take a minute and list at least 5 requirements as you understand, that are expected by God.
- ❑ **What gives me the greatest return or reward?** Again, list at least 5. Be careful with these areas, they will provide the bait to undermine the first list.
- ❑ **Which areas are incompatible?** Using this information, you should be able to discriminate between Productive Loyalties and Destructive Loyalties.

### Family Night Big idea – Read 2Chronicles 18:1-34

Discernment is so valuable! You want to teach your children to think things through; to look ahead; to consider the cost. Discernment is not a magical gift from God, you can teach your children to be discerning.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Who was the evil king that wanted Jehoshaphat's help? What was the prophet's message to King Ahab? What did Ahab do to try to stay alive in the battle?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why was it difficult for Jehoshaphat to decline Ahab's request? How should we react when we have reservations about a person or a situation? What keeps us from being discerning?"

### Prayer

"Father, help us develop a discerning mind so we can follow Jesus without losing our way. Amen."

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Meet at the church this Wednesday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Gravity:** Middle Schoolers come to the Community Room.

#### Today's Songs

*Running Home*.....Cochran & Co

*Me On Your Mind*.....Matthew West

*Praise You Anywhere*.....Brandon Lake

#### Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday is next Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We will get updates of our mission efforts. The mission team from Kenya will be on stage to share about their trip. We will see pictures of the students with their uniforms!

#### PlusONE

Add one thing to your church attendance. Ask us how!

#### Promotion Sunday

Today is Promotion Sunday. Children starting Pre-K will go to KidsJAM. Kids starting 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to a reception along with their parents in the Community Room between the services. They are invited to Velocity on Wednesday nights.

#### Women's Retreat

All ladies are invited to attend our Women's Retreat on August 25-27 at Beaver Creek Plantation in Twin City. You can sign up in the lobby. Cost is \$150 for the weekend. Pick up a flyer in the lobby.