

## **Lesson 6 - Kings**

### **Discussion Guide**

**Main Idea** - God maintains His promises both for judgment and for redemption.

**Intro Question 1** - *Read Deuteronomy 28:1-4 and 28:58-59. We talked about kingship and rest the last two weeks. Why is it important to see God's promises of blessing for faithfulness and judgment for disobedience?*

God had faithfully brought His people rest in the land under the rule of His chosen kings. But that continued rest depended on the faithfulness of the kings and their people. The beginning of the book of Kings shows the potential of a great rest among the people of God under God's rule. But the unfaithfulness of the kings quickly moves their fate from blessing to judgment.

### **Building Block 1 - The Height of the Kingdom**

**Question 1** - *What does the end of David's life teach us about success and an eternal perspective?*

David was as successful as anyone could hope to be in life. He went from shepherd boy to king of Israel. He was incredibly successful in battle and great wealth, respect, and power. But at the end of his life he could not even keep himself warm. The only thing that mattered at the end of his life was his relationship with God that had eternal consequences.

**Question 2** - *How does God's trustworthiness help us to turn from sin and disobedience?*

We see in the story of the Kings that God is faithful both in promises for blessing and promises for judgment. This should lead us to pursue obedience in faith that He blesses those who honor Him. It should also lead us to flee from sin because He will stay true to His promises of judgment.

### **Building Block 2 - The Division of the Kingdom**

**Question 3** - *What effect does sin have on the people of God in 1 & 2 Kings? What should the Church learn from these negative effects?*

Sin leads the people away from God and the people put their trust in other things. In this way, sin removed them from the God who could have united and protected them. The Church experiences a different relationship with God where we cannot be removed from His love, even by our sin. However, God still allows division and failure as consequences for sin in the Church. We should always be fixing our eyes on Jesus together to avoid the failings of Israel.

### **Building Block 3 - The Fall of the Kingdom**

**Question 4** - *How can we wander from God when we stray away from God's word?*

Just like the people of Israel and Judah had left the law unread in the temple, we may be tempted to leave our Bible unread on the shelf. Without Scripture constantly revealing who God is and what God wants to us, we start to care about the wrong things and our judgment of right and wrong becomes less reliable.

**Question 5** - *What does the failure of the kings of Israel and Judah help you understand about the coming of King Jesus?*

While every human king fails and dies, Jesus comes as the perfect King whose life was always faithful and whose death could not contain Him. This is such good news for us because the world always has to put its hope in people who will fall short of expectations. We can put our hope in a King whose perfection is unshakeable.