



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 7/6/25

Opener (10 minutes or less)

If you had to go undercover for a day, what disguise would you choose and why?

DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

Begin your discussion time in prayer.

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 20:31-43

Questions:

1. Why do you think Ahab chose to make a treaty with Ben-Hadad instead of following through with God's judgment?
 2. When have you been tempted to be merciful in a way that went against God's clear direction or wisdom?
 3. How does God sometimes use unusual or surprising methods to convict us today?
 4. What does this passage teach us about God's mercy? Can you think of a time when God showed you grace even when you didn't deserve it?
 5. What are the dangers of obeying God partially, especially when it comes to leadership or influence over others? How do we justify partial obedience in our own lives?
 6. God held Ahab accountable for letting Ben-Hadad go free, saying, "You have set free a man I had determined should die." How seriously do we take God's commands, especially when they conflict with human wisdom or emotional instincts?
 7. How do you tend to respond when confronted with your own sin—defensively or repentantly?
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PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

1. Oikos - the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
3. Pray

1 Kings 20:31-43

31 And his servants said to him, “Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will spare your life.” **32** So they tied sackcloth around their waists and put ropes on their heads and went to the king of Israel and said, “Your servant Ben-hadad says, ‘Please, let me live.’” And he said, “Does he still live? He is my brother.” **33** Now the men were watching for a sign, and they quickly took it up from him and said, “Yes, your brother Ben-hadad.” Then he said, “Go and bring him.” Then Ben-hadad came out to him, and he caused him to come up into the chariot. **34** And Ben-hadad said to him, “The cities that my father took from your father I will restore, and you may establish bazaars for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria.” And Ahab said, “I will let you go on these terms.” So he made a covenant with him and let him go.

35 And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow at the command of the LORD, “Strike me, please.” But the man refused to strike him. **36** Then he said to him, “Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as you have gone from me, a lion shall strike you down.” And as soon as he had departed from him, a lion met him and struck him down. **37** Then he found another man and said, “Strike me, please.” And the man struck him—struck him and wounded him. **38** So the prophet departed and waited for the king by the way, disguising himself with a bandage over his eyes. **39** And as the king passed, he cried to the king and said, “Your servant went out into the midst of the battle, and behold, a soldier turned and brought a man to me and said, ‘Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.’” **40** And as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone.” The king of Israel said to him, “So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it.” **41** Then he hurried to take the bandage away from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. **42** And he said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall be for his life, and your people for his people.’” **43** And the king of Israel went to his house vexed and sullen and came to Samaria.