Self Study Guide

"Listen Wisely" - 1 Kings 12:1-24

Opening Prayer

Begin your time by asking God to give your group wisdom, open hearts, and ears ready to listen to His Word.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Wisdom requires listening to the right voices - Reboam sought advice but chose foolishness over wisdom
2. What takes generations to build can be destroyed in days - The united kingdom fell apart in three days
3. Ignoring God's Word leads to division and conflict - Both in nations and in churches
4. God's Word is our source of true wisdom - Scripture provides guidance that human wisdom cannot
5. Listening to God brings peace - When Israel finally listened to God through the prophet, war was averted

Questions

1. What was the advice of the elders to Reboam? Why was it wise counsel?
2. What was the advice of Reboam's young friends? What motivated their counsel?
3. How did the sermon explain that this division was both a consequence of human foolishness AND part of God's plan? How do you reconcile those two things?
4. What finally stopped the civil war from happening (verses 21-24)?

Reflection

1. The sermon mentioned that "old men are not guaranteed wisdom" (Buck, the security guard). How do we discern between wise and foolish counsel, regardless of the age of the advisor?
2. Think about the major influences in your life (social media, news, friends, family, entertainment). Which voices are you listening to most? Are they leading you toward God's wisdom or away from it?
3. The pastor noted how quickly things can change in our nation and culture. What changes have you observed that concern you? How should Christians respond?
4. Reboam wanted to show strength and dominance rather than servant leadership. Where do you see this same attitude in today's world? In yourself?

Application

1. The sermon emphasized that "the church exists by the will of God" and warned against removing God from the church. What are some ways modern churches are tempted to drift from Scripture? How can we guard against this in our own church?
2. The Reformation happened when people rediscovered God's Word in their own language. How well do you know Scripture? What practical steps can you take to become more grounded in God's Word?
3. Reboam finally listened to God's Word through the prophet Shemaiah and avoided disaster. Share about a time when listening to God's Word kept you from making a serious mistake, or when ignoring it led to consequences.
4. The elders advised Reboam to be a "servant leader." Who in your life needs you to serve them rather than demand from them? (Consider: spouse, children, employees, church members, neighbors)

Moving Forward

- Be sensitive to those who may have made poor decisions by following bad advice—offer grace
- If discussing current cultural/political issues, keep focus on biblical principles rather than partisan positions
- Encourage members to actually open their Bibles during discussion, not just listen
- Consider having copies of your church's confession/statement of faith available for those interested