

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 14 - February 20, 2021

Desiring the Kingdom

2 Kings 18: What Are You Looking At?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Is there something funny you have heard your child (grandchild, sibling, nephew, niece, etc.) say? Share it.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS

Rather than looking to the things of this world to be what they cannot, or fixating on the difficulties before us, we look to Jesus, who alone can give us what we need for our past, present, and future.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Kings 18:1-8.** What do we read in this passage that sets Hezekiah apart from the other kings of Judah and Israel? What, do you believe, was the single most important factor in his decisions? In these verses:
 - a. Find and cite the specific statements regarding his dedication to God.
 - b. Find and cite the actions he took that were a result of his dedication to God.
 - c. Find and cite the results/rewards he received as a result of his actions.
2. **Read 2 Kings 18:4** again. What is the significance of breaking the "bronze thing" Nehushtan?
 - a. **Read Numbers 21:4-9.** This is the story of how Nehushtan was originally used. After 800 years, the people of Israel still clung to it. Why?
 - i. How can we relate their idolatry to events or objects in our lives?
 - ii. In what ways can we break our idols?

- b. **Read John 3:14.** In this passage, Jesus refers to Nehushtan. How has Jesus, in this passage, redirected our understanding of Nehushtan?
- c. **Read Colossians 2:16-17.** How would you explain this passage to someone who might not be familiar with Paul's intent in writing it?
- 3. **Read 1 John 5:21.** Why is it important to heed John's warning in this verse? What danger do idols represent?
 - a. John Calvin wrote: "Man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols". Tim Keller defines an idol as "something we cannot live without". In what ways do we create and worship idols in today's society?
 - b. Martin Luther wrote: "Anything that one imagines of God apart from Christ is only useless thinking and vain idolatry". Do you agree? What do you think is included in this definition of idolatry?
 - c. Why do we sometimes put our trust in idols?
 - d. What are the best ways to guard against practicing idolatry?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

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