

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 28 - March 6, 2021

Desiring the Kingdom

2 Kings 20-21: Are You Ready to Go Home?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Which actor or actress would you want to play you in a movie of your life?

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

Holding on too tightly to the things of this world can diminish the value of our true home in heaven, but having an eternal heavenly perspective will cause us to value the Gospel more dearly, here and now.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Read 2 Kings 20:1-6.** This is the second time we have read a prayer lifted up by King Hezekiah. **Read 2 Kings 19:15-19.**
 - a. Compare the two prayers. What are the major differences in how Hezekiah prayed? What caused Hezekiah to pray as he did in 2 Kings 20:3?
 - b. What was the response from God for each prayer?
 - c. **Read 2 Kings 19:34.** Compare this to 2 Kings 20:6. Even though God answered both of Hezekiah's prayers, what do you find God's focus to be based on these passages?
 - d. Do you believe that God changed His mind regarding Hezekiah based on His prayer? Is God always willing to change His plans? Discuss in terms of this quote by Martin Luther: "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of his willingness."

2. **Read 2 Kings 20:12-19.** What mistakes did Hezekiah make in these passages?
 - a. **Read 2 Chronicles 32:25.** Interpreting this passage, how did the Lord view the final years of Hezekiah's life?
 - b. Based on the prophecy brought to Hezekiah by Isaiah 2 Kings 20:16-18, how would you characterize Hezekiah's response in verse 19?
3. **Read 2 Kings 21:1-9.** Based on these passages, how would you describe the rule of King Manasseh?
 - a. **Read 2 Kings 21:10-16.** How did the Lord respond to Manasseh's actions?
 - b. **Read 2 Chronicles 33:10-16.** What was the cause of Manasseh's prayer to the Lord? How did the Lord respond? How did Manasseh respond to the Lord's mercy?
4. In looking at the stories of Hezekiah and Manasseh, in what ways did their stories differ in regards to their beginning and their end? What event in each of their lives affected the changes we see in their actions?
 - a. Is it easier to follow God when our lives are in jeopardy or when we are being praised for our accomplishments?
 - b. If you knew exactly when your life would end, what would you do differently?
 - c. Read the following verses and discuss the promise we have in Christ and what our reaction should be:
 - i. **John 10:27-28**
 - ii. **Romans 6:23**
 - iii. **2 Corinthians 4:17**
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 5:1**
 - v. **1 John 5:11**

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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