



## **Sermon Study Guide**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

***Desiring the Kingdom: The Promise of a Kingdom***

**1 Kings 1-2**

**Key verse:** *"If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their hearts, with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel."* 1 Kings 2:4b (ESV). **Key idea:** 1-2 Kings is all about looking forward to and *desiring* the Kingdom of God and its King: Jesus!

Read through 1 Kings 1-2. We also recommend watching Pastor Nick's sermon again on the White Fields website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page. Pause the video, reflect on, and discuss areas that challenge you or speak to you in a significant way.

There are three things to see in these passages: 1) Rebellion, 2) Mercy, 3) Judgement

1. Pastor Nick focused on the actions of four men in these verses: Adonijah, Shimei, Joab, and Abiathar. Each of these men reacted to the mercy shown by Solomon in different ways. Pastor Nick said that the story of these rebels is also our story. Discuss how we see each of their stories reflected in our lives and the lives of our contemporaries.

2. Pastor Nick said that the Good News of the Gospel is that we could be pardoned and forgiven despite our rebellion against God. The gifts we are given are Mercy and Grace. Describe the difference between the terms Mercy and Grace.

3. We understand that God's mercy is dependent on our response, what is the primary reason, in your mind, that some people refuse to respond? Reference the reasons that Joab, Adonijah, and Shimei did not respond in a way that allowed them to receive mercy.

4. In Romans 5:6-8, the Apostle Paul gives us insight into why Christ's sacrifice is so unique. Read these verses aloud and reflect on what God did for us on the cross. Discuss the ways we can respond to this great gift through our own lives. Is it possible for us to have this same type of love for our fellow man.

5. In Acts 9:3-18, we read of Paul's conversion from rebellion to service. Read these verses and discuss how Paul's response to God's mercy differed from the men in 1 Kings 1-2.

Pray that our response to God's mercy is pleasing in His eyes. Pray that God's mercy through this pandemic will result in many people surrendering their lives to Him. Continue to pray for our church, our pastors, and our growth in faith.