

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 30, 2011

Passage: 1 Kings 21-22

Memory Passage: James 4:7-10 (Review)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Kings 16:29-34.** Even though this is only the introduction to King Ahab's reign over Israel, we are shown some summary statements about his upcoming reign. What do we learn about his actions? What do we learn about his character?
- (b) What is the problem with Ahab taking Jezebel for his wife (see also Ex. 34:10-16 & Deut. 7:3-4)? What does this decision say about Ahab's wisdom? About Ahab's devotion to Yahweh? What is God's evaluation of Ahab in these verses?
- (c) Why is the information found in v. 34 important for us as we are introduced to King Ahab (see Joshua 6:24)?
- (d) *Family:* During this lesson make a list of all of the kings of Israel & Judah. If your study Bible does not have a list, you can find one here: <http://bible.org/article/introduction-books-first-and-second-kings> (scroll down to IV D for the list, and don't forget to include Saul, David & Solomon as kings of the unified kingdom. This list begins with the divided kingdom). As you list them on your white board (or copy the chart found at the link just provided) note that all of Israel's kings were wicked (although Jehu received a partial commendation), and 12 of Judah's kings were wicked, 4 (Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, & Jotham) received a mixed review of some good and some bad, and 4 (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, & Josiah) were commended as righteous kings. Then **Read 2 Kings 22:1-2** for a summary of King Josiah, one of Judah's righteous kings, who began his reign at age 8. Then, summarize (which means you should read these chapters prior to your lesson ☺) 2 Kings 22:3-23:27 as you tell your family all of the wonderful things King Josiah accomplished in his obedience to the Lord. Finally, tell your family that this week we will learn about one of Israel's wicked kings and how God righteously dealt with him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Kings 21:1-16.** Is there anything necessarily wrong with Ahab's request in v. 2? What about his response in v. 4 to Naboth's answer?
- (b) Do you have a habit of throwing temper tantrums when you don't receive answers to your liking? Think through this carefully: You may not throw yourself on your bed with your face toward the wall and refuse to eat when you don't get what you desire, but do you let your mood turn to grouchiness, or take out your anger/disappointment on others? Is the rest of your day ruined and your attitude about everything spoiled? Do you hold grudges against those who have denied your desire? Here is a great question to answer: What does your response to the denial of your wants reveal about your view of God, His sovereignty, His goodness, and your trust in Him?
- (c) Write down everything you see that is wrong with Jezebel's actions in these verses. Now write down everything that Ahab does/says in vs. 7-15. How do you evaluate the submission of Jezebel to her husband and the headship of Ahab over his household (see Eph. 5:22-33 & 1 Pet. 3:1-7 if you need some help)?
- (d) *Family:* **Read 1 Kings 21:1-6.** Adapt questions (a) & (b) for your family, spending much time on why it is wrong to throw temper tantrums when we don't get what we want: It denies God's sovereignty and goodness, it shows ungratefulness and a lack of satisfaction for everything he *has* given us, etc.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Kings 21:17-29.** What does Elijah prophesy about Ahab as a result of his actions? About Jezebel? Why is the punishment so great for their sin? What does this reveal about God's character?
- (b) What is Ahab's first response to Elijah (v. 20)? What is his second response (v. 27)? What do you think precipitated the change between these two responses?
- (c) How does God respond to Ahab in v. 29? What does this show us about His character? Can you think of other verses that reveal this aspect of God's character?
- (d) Write down three concise points of application for yourself based on what you have learned about God in vs. 17-29.
- (e) *Family:* In 1 Kings 21:17-25 we find God's judgment on Ahab & Jezebel. If the text is not too graphic for your children & their ages, read through this text (we will find this judgment/prophesy fulfilled later in the week). If you find it too graphic, just summarize these verses by saying that God had Elijah prophesy both Ahab & Jezebel's death because of their disobedience and wickedness. Then **Read 1 Kings 21:25-29** and draw out the wonderful mercy shown by God in delaying some of the punishment God promised (vs. 21-22). Then **Read Ex. 34:5-7** and hammer home God's merciful & just character, and let your family know that they can trust God to always act in both a merciful and just way because of His character.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Kings 22:1-28.** Why do you think Jehoshaphat agrees to go into battle with Ahab (see 2 Chron. 18:1)? For what reason does Jehoshaphat ask for another prophet to speak after 400 speak in unison (could these be the 400 prophets of Asherah who did not show up on Mt. Carmel [see 1 Kings 18:19, 22]?)?

(b) We are now 3 years after Ahab's repentance (22:1). Given what you learn in vs. 1-18 would you say his repentance is still bearing fruit or that he has reverted to a life of disobedience? Why?

(c) Why does Micaiah answer one way in v. 15 but another in the rest of the passage? Picture the scene! Two kings perched on their thrones, all of the prophets claiming to preach the word of the LORD, the prophetic drama acted out by Zedekiah and affirmed by all of the other 399 prophets, and into this scene comes Micaiah and he is asked to speak for God. What would you be feeling right now if you were Micaiah? What would you say? What would you be tempted to say? This boldness, to stand and say, "Thus saith the Lord," is required of us every day as we preach the gospel to a lost world. Are you ready?!!!!

(d) What does Micaiah say has happened to the 400 prophets? For what purpose have they spoken? How does Micaiah say his prophecy should be judged? What do we learn about God and His character from these verses?

(e) *Family:* Prepare beforehand a printed, highlighted script out of 1 Kings 22:1-28. You will need 4 readers (Ahab, Jehoshaphat, Micaiah & a narrator, who can also read the messenger's part in v. 13) and a group of prophets (they have two lines). Highlight the verses each reader will read. If you don't have enough readers, read the story yourself but read it with different voices like you would a children's story. Make it exciting and engaging, bringing the excitement of the scene to life! Then ask questions to get your family to discuss what they would have done and how they would have felt if they were Micaiah, and what it means to trust God for the outcome when we speak the truth of His word to the world around us.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Kings 22:29-40.** What evidences of God's sovereignty do you find in these verses (be sure to read 2 Chronicles 18:31 for a further bit of information about this scene)? What else do we learn about God's character in these verses?

(b) Does 22:28 fulfill Elijah's prophecy in 21:23? Do Elijah & Micaiah's prophecies meet the standard for prophets of the Lord given by Moses in Deut. 18:20-22 (see 2 Kings 9:30-37 for Jezebel's demise)?

(c) How does Ahab illustrate what we have learned in James 4 about passions, adulterous behavior, pride, speaking evil, and (next week) boasting?

(d) *Family:* **Read 1 Kings 22:29-40.** If you chose not to give the details of the prophecy when you taught on Day 1 then just summarize the following. If you engaged them, then show how God confirmed Elijah's prophecy in v. 38 (and also show how Jezebel met her death in the same way Elijah prophesied by reading 2 Kings 9:30-37). Then focus on all of the details of God's sovereignty, including reading 2 Chronicles 18:31. Remind your family of what you learned about God's character this week: that God is sovereign and in charge of everything (even "randomly" shot arrows!), He is a God to be worshiped and obeyed not ignored, He is a God who's word will always come to pass, and that He opposes the proud (James 4:6).

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King Ahab: A Random Shot with Deadly Consequences