

February 17, 2019
Home Group Notes

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: The purpose for this series has been to help us learn what it means to be still, to trust in God when we feel fearful or anxious. This final story is about **TRUSTING HIM TOGETHER**. While some stories have been about individuals (e.g. Elijah), this story is about following God's lead and leaders **TOGETHER**. So please emphasize this. Please discuss how we can support, encourage, endure, and trust in Him together. This is how God made us to be.

SHARE IT

Share stories of how have you seen God work in difficult times. How has this strengthened your trust in God?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: This will be a challenge for those who are not yet followers of Jesus. However, if you share openly, this will be a testimony to God's faithfulness and how we can trust in Him together.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Read the story of people who followed God's leadership in 2 Chronicles 20:1-29.

What challenges were the people of Judah facing? How big was this?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: Help the people in your group understand this. The people of Judah were facing war, death, slavery, rape of the women, loss of their children, loss of their husbands, starvation, loss of all they owned, etc.. This was the big challenge of big challenges.

List the actions of Jehoshaphat and the responses of the people to his leadership?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS:

- **Jehoshaphat was alarmed but resolved to inquire of the LORD.**
- **Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast for all Judah. (Seeking the LORD). They followed his lead, came together to seek help from the LORD.**
- **Jehoshaphat spoke at the assembly and addressed/ prayed to the LORD. He rehearsed . . .**
 - **That God is the only God of heaven**
 - **He rules over kingdoms and nations**
 - **He is all powerful**
 - **His work in the past: helped them conquer the nations and give the land to Israel, helped them build the sanctuary (where God lives among them), gave them access to pray and trust in Him, saw Him answer prayers when they were in calamity**
- **Jehoshaphat prayed and asked God to "judge" the army of attackers,**
- **Jehoshaphat declared that they did not know what to do, but that their eyes were upon God. The people stood with him before the LORD.**
- **When God's prophet said to "not be afraid" because "the battle is the God's," and yet to "march down against them," they followed his lead.**
- **When he heard this, Jehoshaphat bowed down in worship of God, the people also worshiped.**
- **On the day, Jehoshaphat again instructed the people to "have faith in the LORD" and appointed people to sing (in worship), "give thanks, for His love endures forever." The people followed.**
- **Following the destruction of the enemy, Jehoshaphat again led the people in worship and they followed.**

What helped the people to have confidence in the Lord? (be specific)

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: The list includes the Spirit of the LORD, Jehoshaphat, prophets, lead singers, priests, captains of the army, parents, neighbors. The point of this list is that God works through leaders but everyone is needed. Following God is something we do together. I hope it is an encouragement to you Shepherds to know that God is using you.

Which words or actions in this story encourage you to trust God?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: I pray that people are encouraged.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In this story, what gave the people confidence in God's power?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: Knowing God's character, His faithfulness in the past, His history of being all-powerful, the leader's confidence and faith, following God's lead together.

What history do we have that would remind us to keep our "eyes on" Him? How is this something that we can do together?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: We have stories of how God has worked in our lives. These life experiences are meant to be shared so that we might encourage one another.

In the message we heard that, "Obedience, faith, and praise are to be our responses, even before God delivers." What do each of these look like in our lives? How can we help each other live this way?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: Try to be specific about what these look like (definition or examples of obedience, faith, praise), how they all add to our worship and growth, and ways that we help each other follow our great God.

Every culture has elements that are hostile toward God and his people. If we feel anxious or fearful, how might we follow this example?

NOTES TO SHEPHERDS: Life, the daily news, and even stories of others facing hardship can cause us to be fearful or anxious. While the world turns to their own ways, God wants us to turn to Him. All the things that this story teaches about the goodness and power of God should instruct and encourage us because He created us to know, love and follow Him forever.

May the rich truth of His faithful love fill your heart with joy.

Steve