

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

Dec 11th Study Guide

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. When you were a kid, what family traditions did you have? How old were you when you discovered that Santa wasn't real?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read the story of Asa in 2 Chronicles 14 and 15
 - What do you notice about Asa? What challenges did he face in his work at spiritual reform?
2. Where in your walk with God are you most likely to get discouraged? (for example, marriage. Integrity at the work place. Keeping a cool head a family gatherings, ect...) How do you work through that?
3. Reread Azariah's message in 15:1-7. How did these words encourage Asa? How do they encourage you?
4. Azariah said that God would be with Asa if Asa was with God. What does it mean to be "with God"? What expectations did God have to Asa?
5. How does it impact our own perseverance to know that God is with us and that our work will not be wasted?
6. Asa made sure that he was persevering in the mission that God had for him. How do we know if we are persevering in the right things?
7. Is there something right now that he need some encouragement to persevere in? Take time as a group to pray about it.

December 11th

The Power of One...Who Perseveres in Doing What is Right

The Setting: Has once again turned away from God. When Asa takes the throne, he commits to correcting these wrongs. He begins reforms, but soon loses traction and wonders if his work is worth it.

- I. God's promises to Asa:** The turning point in the story is when God delivers a message to Asa through the prophet Azariah.
- **God supports his people** (2 Chronicles 15:2). God promises that if Asa is with Him, then God would support him. Asa would not be doing this work on his own, but with the creator of the universe at his side.
 - **God delights in being found by those who seek him** (2 Chronicles 15:2-4). God promises that if the people seek him, then he would be found. He then sites the times in the past in which they had been lost, but had called out to God in their distress and found him.
 - **Perseverance in God's work is never in vain** (2 Chronicles 15:7). The message culminates in the command to be strong and to not give up. If Asa does this, then he will be rewarded in his work. Asa took this message to heart and continued the work of reform. The result was the nation recommitting themselves to God and for the nation to experience peace.

II. Application

- **Foundation of impactful perseverance is one's relationship with God:** Asa's basis for perseverance wasn't a motivational speech or good self discipline. It was the knowledge that God was with him. Asa fully leaned on God for strength and that enabled him to press on. Later in life, Asa would forget about this and rely on a foreign nation for strength. The result ends up being the loss of national peace.
- **Persevere in the things that matter to God:** Asa chose to focus his attentions on the things that God wanted him to do. There are many things in life that we can persevere in, but God's mission needs to be central.
- **Remember that perseverance in obeying God is never wasted:** There are many times in which we can get discouraged in obeying Jesus. Marriage or family can be challenging. Some of us are serving in dark places in which we feel the pressure to compromise in our faith. God doesn't promise that obedience is easy, but he does promise to reward it. When we press on, in time God will use our obedience.

Conclusion

Asa changes a nation by persevering in doing what is right. When he got discouraged, he remembered that God was with him and that his work would not be wasted. The message for us is to press on in our own obedience trusting that God will honor it.

Lastly, Jesus himself lived this out. He came on a mission to save the lost. When he was on the cross, he experienced something that we will never experience ourselves. With the sin of the world upon him, God the Father turned his back on Jesus. Jesus persevered through the suffering, so that we could be restored to God.