

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides **(January 23rd-29th)**

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

1. What is your favorite or least favorite thing about snow days?

Bible Study Questions

1. If you have been reading in 1st and 2nd Kings, what have you been learning? What do you notice about God? Who do you identify with? What questions do you have?
2. During the message we talked about King Hezekiah. In this study we are going to look at another one of the great kinds, Josiah. Read 2 Kings 22:1-13. (Note: Judah has just gone through several decades of extreme bad behavior).
 - What is Josiah's response when the book of the law (Deuteronomy) was read to him? Why do you think that he reacted this way?
 - When was a time in which you felt yourself greatly convicted after reading God's Word?
3. Read 2:18-20 and 3:1-3, 3:24-25, and 2 Chronicles 35:18-19
 - What actions does Josiah take in response to the reading of the law?
 - 2 King 23:25 tells us that no other king turned to the Lord as he did...with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength in accordance with all the Law of Moses. What does this mean?
 - From what can you tell, what is Josiah's motivation in repentance?
4. Josiah is a great example of true repentance. Repentance is when you are going on direction, and then turn and completely go the other. In Acts 2:38, the people ask Peter how to be saved. He responds with "*repent and be baptized, everyone one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" Why is repentance so important for following Jesus and salvation?

5. Martin Luther once said that the entire Christian life is one of repentance. What does he mean by that? What does it look like for our lives to be marked by repentance?
6. Take some time as a group to pray and ask God to reveal areas of repentance that need to take place. Share if comfortable.
7. Additional Thought/ Discussion: Tim Keller suggests that there are two kinds of repentance. One is religious repentance where you get caught and are sorry about the consequences. The other is gospel repentance where you recognize what sin does to God and you repent out of your love for him. What kind of repentance do you most often see in your life?

January 30th
Hezekiah
2 Kings 18-19

we deny ourselves things that look very attractive from a worldly perspective. We trust that God will honor our obedience with his mercy and blessing.

Intro: Hezekiah bears a special place in the Old Testament. The story of his confrontation with Assyria is repeated more than any other story in the Old Testament. It is written in 2 Kings 18:5 that he “*trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was none like him among all of the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.*” Hezekiah provides a template of the kind of faith that God is looking for in his people.

- I. **Hezekiah: Defined by his steadfast trust in God:** It should be noted that this trust isn’t just believing in God, but taking the risk of following God’s lead into dark places.
- **Trusts God’s protection when standing for conviction:** Hezekiah inherited a kingdom full of idol worship and all kinds of wicked behavior. He promptly begins aggressive reforms. In doing so, he risks the wrath of many people who had gladly embraced idol worship and emancipation from God’s laws. He sticks with it though trusting that God will protect him.
- **Trusts that God will honor his obedience with mercy:** during his first month as king, he orders that the temple be repaired and opened for worship. He then leads the people in a massive worship service to celebrate its reopening (2 Chronicles 29). Soon after, he invites all of Israel, including survivors of the northern kingdom to gather to celebrate the Passover (2 Chronicles 30). In both of these, he reminds the people of their sin and of God’s coming wrath. He views these actions as a way of experiencing God’s mercy (2 Chronicles 29:10, 30:9).
- **Trusts in the supremacy of God over the powers of the world:** Assyria was the most powerful empire on earth. They had an army number in the 100s of thousands and nothing could stand in their way. Hezekiah’s father had declared himself to be a vassal and had agreed to worship their God. Hezekiah said no and when they invaded, trusted in God’s deliverance. God did just that, destroying the Assyrian army and delivering Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:35-36)

Conclusion

Hezekiah gets God’s attention because of his steadfast trust. We are invited to follow in his footsteps. Jesus called his followers to deny themselves and to follow him. Sometimes that means that we stand up for our convictions at a cost of relationships or career advancements. We trust that God is supreme over those situations. Sometimes it means that