

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

November 27th Study Guide

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

1. Do you get excited about Christmas music or not? What is your favorite Christmas song?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read the story of Josiah in 2 Kings 22
 - What do you notice about Josiah's journey?
 - How does he respond to the message of the law?
2. Huldah said that Josiah had a "responsive heart" (22:19). What does that mean? What obstacles do we often face in having a "Responsive heart"?
3. Pastor Michael talked about the popular idea of deconstruction. As we look at our beliefs and values, why is it important to have a source outside of ourselves as our standard?
4. Huldah also said that Josiah humbled himself before God. What does this mean? What does it look like when humble ourselves before God today?
5. Josiah wept over he and his nation's failures. Why is sorrow an important part of repentance?
6. Read 2 Kings 23:1-30. What does Josiah's repentance prompt him to do? What impact does his repentance have on his nation?
7. Are there any stories of someone who greatly impacted you or your family by their decision to humble themselves and repent before God?

8. Christians are said to be people of the book. How are you allowing the Bible to shape your life today? Are there any areas in which you most struggle to allow the Bible to shape you?

November 27th

The Power of One...Who Humbles Themselves before God

One of the greatest of the Old Testament Kings was a man named Josiah. The Bible says that there was no king who turned to the Lord as he did, with all of his heart, soul and strength (2 Kings 23:25).

The Problem: A nation claiming to follow God, but living on their own terms: Josiah became king as a boy following two generations of evil kings. As a young man, he began to seek God but had little direction. The writings of other prophets describe Judah as nation of people who claimed the name of God, but lived life on their own terms. This all changed when Josiah encountered the book of God's law.

The Solution: King Josiah choose to...(2 Kings 22:19)

- **Have a responsive heart:** Josiah has a heart that is aimed at one direction, pleasing God. When he is confronted with God's Word and learns that he isn't doing that, he adjusts his heart to align it with God.
- **Humbles himself before God:** Humbling means that we place ourselves at a lower position. Josiah places himself fully under the lordship of God and looks for his leading on what to do next.
- **Grieves over the failure to serve God:** Josiah doesn't just change, but visibly grieved by the ways that he has disobeyed God. This is the first step in repentance. His grief prompts him to make the needed changes.

The Result: The nation is restored to God: Josiah goes from here to lead revival throughout his country. He gathers people at the temple and they renew the covenant. He launches a campaign to destroy idols and removed the male prostitutes from the temple. He then celebrates the greatest Passover in Jewish history. The result is that for a time, the people are renewed in their walk with God.

Application: Allow Jesus and His Word to shape your life: Jesus called his disciples to orient their entire life around him (Matthew 10:37-39). Only by doing that can we be healed from sin and experience complete wholeness. The primary way that the Holy Spirit speaks to us and forms us is through his Word. It has been said that Christians are people of the book. Our response then is to allow God's Word to shape us. When we encounter a command that challenges us, we don't argue, but follow in the steps of Josiah.

Conclusion

Josiah through his decision to humble himself before God was able to transform the spiritual condition of a country. Today, families are transformed by individuals who make this decision. Communities are formed by churches that choose to humble themselves before God.