

Vacation

Judah

2 Chronicles 20:1-2 NLT: After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat. Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already at Hazazon-tamar.” (This was another name for En-gedi.)

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

Our travels this week take us to Judah - the southern kingdom. The king of Judah at the time of this story was Jehoshaphat, who was known to be a good, highly respected king. The king of the northern kingdom of Israel at the same time was Ahab, who was a very evil king married to the extremely evil Jezebel. A vast army had come together to declare war against Jehoshaphat. In fact, they had already arrived at En-gedi. To help us understand how to prepare for and fight our battles, we can learn a great deal from the actions of Jehoshaphat.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:3-4:

1A) How did Jehoshaphat react when he learned about the coming battle? Verse 3

1B) How did the people of Judah respond? Verse 4

1C) PERSONAL: How are you encouraged by the actions of these people as they faced their battle?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18:

2A) What can we learn about the battles that we face every day from verses 10-12?

2B) What similarities do you see with what Paul told us to do to prepare for our battles and what we see that happened in Judah? Verses 13-18

3) PERSONAL: Take some time to “Look in” and describe a battle in your life that is causing you to be fearful?

Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-12:

- 4A) PERSONAL: Look at the prayer of Jehoshaphat. What examples can you follow when you need God's help?
- 4B) Write 2 Chronicles 20:12 on a card or sticky note and memorize it. This is a wonderful verse to know and pray when you're needing to ask for God's help.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:13-21:

- 5A) What specific instructions were given in verses 15, 17, and 20?
- 5B) What further instructions were given in verse 21?
- 5C) PERSONAL: How could you apply these instructions to your own battle?
- 6A) What does God's Word say about fear or being fearful? Does it tell us to fear in the midst of battle? Does it tell us to run or try to hide? What does it actually say?
Psalm 23:4:

Psalm 27:1:

Psalm 91:5:

Proverbs 29:25:
- 6B) PERSONAL: How can these verses help you to "Look Up" when you're facing a battle?

Read 2 Chronicles 20:22-30:

- 7) Describe the result of the battle that Jehoshaphat and Judah faced and how God answered their prayers.

ACT: Jesus told us that we will face trials (battles) in this life, but we can take heart because He has overcome the world. So first of all we should not be surprised by our battles, but we must focus on our faith and not our fears. We need to "look in" to see what is causing us to be fearful, "look out" and realize that our fearfulness affects other people, and instead "look up" to ask for God's help. This will help us and those who are involved in our lives and watching to see how we handle our battles. God does not leave us to battle alone and He gives us His full armor to wear, so that we can overcome and live victorious lives that glorify Him!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read about several battles and how God provided victory - notice the context and who was involved.

Monday:

Joshua 6:2 NLT

But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.

Tuesday:

Joshua 8:1 NLT

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take all your fighting men and attack Ai, for I have given you the king of Ai, his people, his town, and his land.

Wednesday:

1 Samuel 17:46-47 NLT

Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

Thursday:

Psalms 24:7-8 NLT

Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, invincible in battle.

Friday:

Exodus 14:13-14 NLT

But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

Saturday:

2 Chronicles 32:7-8 NLT

"Be strong and courageous! Don't be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria or his mighty army, for there is a power far greater on our side! He may have a great army, but they are merely men. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles for us!" Hezekiah's words greatly encouraged the people.

Sunday:

Isaiah 31:4-5 NLT

But this is what the Lord has told me: "When a strong young lion stands growling over a sheep it has killed, it is not frightened by the shouts and noise of a whole crowd of shepherds. In the same way, the Lord of Heaven's Armies will come down and fight on Mount Zion. The Lord of Heaven's Armies will hover over Jerusalem and protect it like a bird protecting its nest. He will defend and save the city; he will pass over it and rescue it."

