

## REVIEW

READ 1 Kings 22:1-38

### A few key quotes and ideas to reflect on:

- The Book of Kings gives mini-biographies of all the kings of Israel and Judah (North and South) - what they did, what impact they made; but it does it in a way that helps us see why their lives turned out the way they did. At the beginning of each mini-biography there is a statement about what they did with God: Did they follow God? Or did they not follow God? Then the details of their life flow from there. **And it's a very mixed picture. Only six of the thirty-nine followed God.**
- **JEHOSHAPHAT** (long name that means "The Lord judges") was the 4th king in the South, one of the six good kings, and recognized as probably the BEST KING that the south ever had. **There's a lot to say about Jehoshaphat...but there was a definite PATTERN to his life:**
  - "He followed the ways of his father David...his heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord."
  - **PRACTICALLY:** he did not consult the Baals but sought the Lord; he removed the high places (pursued holiness)...**he provided spiritual teachers and judges for the people, he purged the government of corruption; he repented of sin.**
  - **THE FRUIT:** People were encouraged; God gave blessing; and He was honored by all.
- **AHAB was the 7th king of Israel**, one of the nineteen bad ones...probably the WORST KING the north ever had. **There was a PATTERN to Ahab's life too:** "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord."
  - **PRACTICALLY:** he committed the sins of Jeroboam (first king of North who creates a hybrid religion, counterfeit priesthood and prophets), and introduces gross immorality into the religious services (prostitution, child sacrifice), and multiplies the false prophets; He marries Jezebel (wicked Canaanite princess, who brings more false worship, plus the outlawing of worship of Yahweh, and murdering of good prophets).
  - **THE FRUIT:** Ruins his own life and that of Israel; Dies in defeat.
- **The prophet is MICAIAH** is the lone true prophet in the court of Ahab. Again, there's a PATTERN to his life: He speaks only what is true (tells this steward this).
  - **PRACTICALLY:** Sarcastic with Ahab, then pronounces the two Visions: A nation like sheep without a shepherd (see also Ez.34; Luke 15; John 10); Heavenly court announcing judgment on Ahab.
  - **THE FRUIT:** He keeps the Word of God before the nation; probably dies in prison (Lk.13:34).

### ASK:

- Now ask just a few simple questions:
  - **Read Psalm 2**, then compare the rulers described there with Ahab. **When in your life has God not been at the center of your life?** What did God do to shake up that pattern?
  - **Read Psalm 1**, then compare that with Jehoshaphat's life. How are you currently putting God at the center of your life? (use Psalm 1 as a template, esp. delighting/meditating on God's Words)
  - **Read John 10:1-30**. What does Jesus as the good shepherd do for you that you could never do for yourself? **How does he reverse the trend we saw with 33/39 of Israel's kings?**

**PREVIEW** Next week is Ezra 8 Day. Our entire service will be shaped around seeking God's counsel through prayer and hearing, really hearing His Word. Spend some time together planning how your group will participate in Ezra 8: through prayer, fasting?, by reading a particular section of Scripture throughout the week. **There are lots of options, but pick one or two** and then make this a week or seeking the Lord together just as we will when we gather on Sunday.

# LECTIO VISIO

Christians believe in God's Word and take him at his Word. Yet 21st century Christians have a difficult time seeing God's Word the same way God's people have for centuries: **visually**. That's what this method of Scripture reading is designed to do: help you see the text.

## 3 INGREDIENTS

- 3 candles, or a 3 wick candle
- 1 Passage (preferably narrative, 5-10 verses)
- 12 or fewer people (Christians or non-Christians)

## 10 COMMANDMENTS OF LECTIO VISIO

1. No prep! (Lead by asking)
2. Pray simple prayers (tsp prayers: Thank you, Sorry, Please)
3. Shut your Bibles (yup, you read that correctly. Don't worry.)
4. Open your eyes (senses) and picture the scene. Try to get down in the dust of the story.
5. Direct the Film (you as the leader help the biblical scene come alive for those you're studying with)
6. No peeking ahead (1 verse at a time)
7. No rabbit trails (stick to what the text says, not "I feels")
8. Keep telling the story (instead of explaining, WONDER)
9. Keep silence
10. Lead by asking the 5Qs
11. Repeat #2 TSP.

## THE 5 QUESTIONS

1. What did it say?
2. What do you see?
3. What happens next? (Guess)
4. What do you hear? (Then/Now)
5. What do you want to do?

## A COUPLE EXTRA TIPS FOR LEADERS

**Mirror the group.** Repeat back what is said and direct them back to the story if things get off track.

**Lead Strong.** God is actually the one leading the discussion by his Word. Take courage. Have fun. Encourage a bit of playfulness.