

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Cautionary Kings**

1 Kings 14-16

**APPLY // 1 KINGS 12-13**

**Main Idea:** Sinful kings result in a divided kingdom, according to God's promise.

1. In 1 Kings 12-13, we see the kingdom becomes divided. Discuss how God is both faithful and just when he splits the kingdom of Israel.
2. Describe how Rehoboam and Jeroboam abuse their position and by extension, the word of the LORD. Then describe its effects. Why does division and death follow those that don't follow the word of the LORD?
3. Compare these Kings with how Jesus utilizes his position as King. Be specific. How does this compel you?
4. What are those voices that you're tempted to listen to in order to make compromises on the revealed will of God? What does this passage teach you if you were to follow those voices? What would it look like to be undivided? How do we get there?

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 1 KINGS 14-16**

**Main Idea:** Corrupt kings, who reject God's word, leave us yearning for Christ the King, who fulfills God's word.

1. Read 1 Kings 14:1-18. What does Jeroboam do in these verses? What do his actions tell us about his heart? What does this passage tell us about the character of the Lord?
2. NOTE: 1 Kings 14:21-16:34 traces nine kings of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) and Israel (the Northern Kingdom):
  - a. Three Kings of Judah
    - i. Rehoboam (14:21-31)
    - ii. Abijam (15:1-8)
    - iii. Asa (15:9-24)
  - b. Six Kings of Israel
    - i. Nadab (15:25-31)
    - ii. Baasha (15:33-16:7)
    - iii. Elah (16:8-10)
    - iv. Zimri (16:10-20)
    - v. Omri (16:21-28)
    - vi. Ahab (16:29-34)
  - c. One commentator summarizes: "It's sort of like a Wikipedia page. We're given 1) the identity of the king, 2) the length of his reign, 3) his relationship to the king in the other kingdom, 4) the identity of the king's mother (in the case of Judah's kings), 5) occasionally an explanation of the divine point of view, 6) a statement of death, and 7) recommendation for further study...How will each king respond to God's covenant? That question lingers throughout the narrative."
3. Read 1 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-5; 15:9-15; 15:25-26; 15:33-34; 16:8-10; 16:18-19; 16:25-26; 16:29-34.
  - a. What do you notice about these kings?
  - b. What do these kings tell us about the sinfulness of sin?

- i. Notice 14:22—it's not just the king but the people who give into sin. What does this tell us about the sinfulness of leaders? What does this tell us about the nature of sin and it's affects others?
  - c. What do you observe about the character of the Lord?
4. Notice the repeated references to king David— 14:8; 14:31; 15:3-5, 8; 15:11; 15:24 when talking about the kings of Judah? Why does the author continually bring king David back into focus?
5. How is God faithful to his people while these kings went astray? How does this faithfulness point us to Jesus?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** What has the Lord been teaching you through our study in Kings?