

Leader Notes- Rehoboam and Jeroboam

Day 1

I appreciate that Lysa takes time to tie all the kings together on pages 54 and 55. The more we can connect dots in the historical narrative of the Old Testament, the less intimidating the Old Testament will be! And the New Testament directly ties into the Old Testament. You will see that more and more, the more familiar you are with the Old Testament.

This day starts off with something we discussed last week in my group- how did Solomon get so off track if he was the wisest man that ever lived (other than Jesus)? I think Lysa hits on this point in Day 1. Obedience to God is the lynchpin to staying within God's will. To stay on the right spiritual track we must combine wisdom and obedience plus waiting on God's timing. Patience is a result of trusting that God will do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done.

Jeroboam will become the king of the north (10 tribes). He rose to power because he served under King Solomon. I remember that Jeroboam is in the north, because J comes before R in the alphabet (if you visualize the alphabet vertically). The northern kingdom is called Israel, and its capital becomes Samaria.

Rehoboam will become the king of the South (2 tribes- Judah and Benjamin). Rehoboam rose to power because he was the son of Solomon. I remember that Rehoboam is in the south because R comes after J in the alphabet (if you visualize the alphabet vertically). The southern kingdom is renamed Judah and Israel remains as the capital.

Day 2

At the beginning of this day, we can learn a lot about how to be a wise, godly leader through the behavior and experiences of Jeroboam and Rehoboam. What lessons stand out to you?

I like the point Lysa makes at the top of page 62. Even though the kingdom split due to Solomon's sin and Rehoboam's folly- God remains in the situation and continue to work His plan. No matter what situation we find ourselves in- even if it is directly due to our disobedience or folly- if we ask God He will enter in and help you through that situation- God will never throw up His hands and respond to our request with "you created this situation, you deal with it on your own."

Take some time to work through the questions and observations on pages 64-65.

Day 3

A great lesson from this day- if we take control/manipulate situations all the time, we leave no room for God to be God. We miss out on seeing how He can divinely orchestrate things- and in the end we are left not growing in our trust in Him, because we never give Him time to prove His trustworthiness to us. Does anyone have an example of this that they can share in the group?

Jeroboam took matters into his own hands by building up golden calves (golden calves were surrounding pagan nations' idols of worship) to keep the citizens from travelling to the temple located in the southern kingdom. Jeroboam was more concerned with his kingdom than obeying God.

Are there places in our lives where we are more concerned with protecting ourselves than remaining true to God's ways?

Are there places where you can seek wise counsel?

The golden calf incident is a replay of the golden calf incident in Exodus 32:1-7. You may want to take time to read that passage, in case some ladies are unfamiliar with it. We are the same way! Can you identify repetitive sins in your life? Have you talked to God about the heart of the issue and explored ways to rid yourself of that sin forever?

Jeroboam's political decisions influenced his citizens. The citizens needed to benchmark his behavior and laws against the Scriptures. Are we benchmarking the laws and ordinances of our political leaders against the Word of God? Do we know God's word enough to do that?

Day 4

The review of Jeroboam's reign on page 72 and 73 is helpful. Take time to go over it in your group. This may have been the first time many women have studied this portion of Scripture.

Jeroboam was aware of why there was division in his kingdom (read 1 Kings 11:29-39). He did not pause, repent, and return to the promises of God. God is gracious, and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, we are given chances to repent and turn back toward God. Are there places where we know what we need to do it, but refuse to? Lysa gives us reasons why we might behave this way: fear, doubt and control. Which reasons resonate with the ladies in your group?

It would be a great exercise to look up the Scriptures and read aloud the promises in the Scriptures on page 76.

Day 5

If we stray from God's word, we stray from God Himself. What mind numbing things do we do instead of retreating to God's word? Lysa used an analogy of filling up on things of no nutritional value when we are hungry. What is "soul hunger" (top of page 78) and how can we recognize it? Does anyone have a daily quiet time plan that works for them that they would like to share?

Take some time to talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in believer's lives. Some ladies, depending on where they are in their spiritual journey, may not be aware of who the Holy Spirit is, and how the Holy Spirit helps us.

Lysa did a great recap in the middle of page 79. What are some modern objects of idolatry in our lives?

We are introduced to the role of the prophet in this day. This story in 1 Kings 13 is hard to read and it is easy for us to assume that God is being unfair to this prophet. However, we know from all of Scripture that God is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiveness, so there is probably more to this story and the status of the prophet's heart that we understand. The big idea here is that God expects us to obey His word. We cannot assume that continued disobedience will not result in discipline from God or negative consequences.

So much of obedience is connected to humility. We need to submit to the will of God and recognize that He, as our Creator, knows better than we do. He is for our good always, so we can trust Him.