2.14.24

BIBLE STUDY & LIFE GROUPS



Pastor Alton Trimble

OUR CULTURE

Living Connected with God, each other & our community!

OUR CORE VALUES

Love, Mercy & Grace, Diligence, Commitment. Superior Service

OUR VISION

Win the Lost, Disciple the Found & Send the Discipled!

HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS



oung Adults Ministry

Sundays @ 9:30am Wednesdays @ 7pm (GCFI Sanctuary)



Middle School Ministry

9:30am Wednesdays @

Sundays @

7pm (Middle School Room) *Snacks provided weekly

High School Ministry

Sundays @ 9:30am Wednesdays @ 7pm (GCFI Lounge) *Snacks provided weekly

Children's Ministry

Pre-K to **Elementary** Sundays @ 9:30am

Wednesdays @

7pm *Snacks provided weekly **GCFI Nurser**

Sundays at 9:30am for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old!

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40 DAYS OF PRAYER CAMPAIGN TOPIC: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS – Pastor Alton Trimble

Bible Study & Life Groups: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:2-3 (NLT)</u> Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already [about two days away]... Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news...

SIX (6) LESSON FROM KING JEHOSHAPHAT

- 1. TURN TO GOD FOR HELP.
 - <u>2 CHRONICLES 20:3 (NLT)</u> Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting.
 - Never let a problem intimidate you. Instead, let it motivate you to pray!
 - REMEMBER HOW BIG GOD IS.
 - <u>2 CHRONICLES 20:6 (NIV)</u> "O Lord, the God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.
 - REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE.
 - <u>2 CHRONICLES 20:7 (NIV)</u> "O God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel?"
 - REMEMBER <u>WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED.</u>
 - <u>2 CHRONICLES 20:7 (NIV)</u> "Did you not... give [this land] forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?"
 - APPEAL TO GOD'S CHARACTER.
 - <u>2 CHRONICLES 20:10-12</u> "You would not allow us to invade their territory when we came up from Egypt; so we turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us... O our God, will you not judge them?"

2. ADMIT MY INADEQUACY.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:12 (NIV)</u> "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do…"

MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV) Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

3. RELY ON GOD'S RESOURCES.

2 CHRONICLES 20:12 (NIV) "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

4. RELAX IN FAITH.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:15, 17 (NIV)</u> "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

 When you put your life in God's hands, your battles become His battles, and your enemies become His enemies. And God says to you, just like He said to Jehoshaphat, "Relax, I've got this."

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:20 (NCV)</u> "Have faith in the Lord your God, and you will stand strong. Have faith in his prophets, and you will succeed."

5. THANK GOD IN ADVANCE.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:21 (NIV)</u> Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."

• Thank God for what He is going to do, even though you don't know how He is going to do it. If you thank God after the fact, that's gratitude. But if you thank God in advance, that's faith.

<u>HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)</u> Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:22 (TLB)</u> At the moment they began to sing and to praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to begin fighting among themselves, and they destroyed each other!

6. EXPECT GOD TO TURN BATTLES INTO BLESSINGS.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:24-26 (NLT)</u> Not a single one of the enemy had escaped. King Jehoshaphat and his men went out to gather the plunder. They found vast amounts of equipment, clothing, and other valuables—more than they could carry. There was so much plunder that it took them three days just to collect it all! On the fourth day they gathered in the Valley of Blessing, which got its name that day because the people praised and thanked the Lord there. It is still called the Valley of Blessing today.

• When you let God fight your battles, it is a witness to everyone around you.

<u>2 CHRONICLES 20:29-30 (NLT)</u> When all the surrounding kingdoms heard that the Lord himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them. So Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has there ever been a time when you stopped to praise and thank God first in the moment
 of crisis? If so, how did that act of faith impact your perspective on the crisis? What
 changes did you experience physically, emotionally and mentally—were you less anxious or
 worried, etc.?
- Jehoshaphat prayed, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2
 Chronicles 20:12 NIV*). Is there a situation that is overwhelming or intimidating you? What steps can you take to shift your focus from your problem to the Problem Solver?
- "When you let God fight your battles, it is a witness to everyone around you." What are you communicating to the people around you by the way you handle the crisis in your life? What does it say about your faith?