

“Faith During Faithlessness” Sermon Series **Study Guide**

Big Idea of the Series: The book of 2 Kings covers almost 250 years of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, focusing on rulers, prophets, and the many different kings that ultimately led the Hebrew people to the Babylonian exile. This series will consider six people whose chose to remain with God or to turn away from him. Through relevant application, you will see how following God or turning from Him can lead to similar outcomes.

Series Outline:

Week 1 Series Message - *“God’s Authority”*-2 Kings 2:1-14

Week 2 Series Message - *“Justice”*- 2 Kings 9:1-13

Week 3 Series Message - *“Accountability”* – 2 Kings 11:21-12:18

Week 4 Series Message - *“Fear in Trusting”* – 2 Kings 17:1-23

Week 5 Series Message – *“Dependence on God”* 2 Kings 18:1-12

Week 6 Series Message – *“Obedience”* 2 Kings 22:1-4,11-20

Week 7 Series Message – *“Stories of Faith”*

Week 1: Elijah and Elisha

Text: 2 Kings 2:1–14

Topic: God’s Authority

Big Idea of the Message: For a period of time, Elisha would become the central prophet of both kingdoms following Elijah’s departure. Miracles would accentuate Elisha’s authority in God’s name.

Application Point: When God calls us to follow him, he will empower us to do so.

Discussion Questions: Use the extra space below to write out your answers.

Story – What’s taking place?

1. What is the main story or themes that stood out to you from the verses during Sunday’s message and what you just read?
2. What was one of the most difficult transitions in life you have ever faced (e.g., loss of a parent, job, child, etc.)? How did you get through it?

Wound/Tension – How does this experience affect you or your outlook?

3. In what ways does the story of Elijah and Elisha speak about God’s plan and order for our lives?
4. In what ways would it be encouraging to know that God didn’t just stop with Elijah?

Healing – What are you learning about God and yourself?

5. Can you think of a time when God acted in a similar way toward you?

Call – What is God showing you from this experience to help encourage others?

6. Give some examples of what God is awakening in you that can help uplift others from you learnings?

Week 2: Jehu

Text: 2 Kings 9:1–13

Topic: Justice

Big Idea of the Message: Jehu would become God's tool for addressing the wickedness of King Ahab's family.

Application Point: Sometimes God uses us to make amends for actions of the past. At times He will call us to repay goodness and other times we will be the vessel He uses to settle a debt.

Discussion Questions: Use the extra space below to write out your answers.

Story – What's taking place?

1. What is the main story or themes that stood out to you from this week's verses in 2 Kings and from Sunday's message?
2. Name one person who positively impacted your life. How did they do this?

Wound/Tension – How does this experience affect you or your outlook:

3. Jehu had the responsibility of bringing a reckoning on the house of Ahaz. Why do you think God used Jehu and didn't just find a way to ruin Ahaz's legacy?

Healing – What are you learning about God and yourself?

4. In what ways would Jehu's actions bring God glory?
5. Can you think of ways God could use people today to both bring retribution for others and glory to himself (e.g., attorneys using law degrees to help aid people enslaved in different countries; humanitarian projects that help bring food, water, and education to countries ravaged by civil war; civil rights activists in America, etc.)?

Call – What is God showing you from this experience to help encourage others?

6. Give some examples of what God is awakening in you that can help uplift others from your learnings?

Week 3: Joash

Text: 2 Kings 11:21–12:18

Topic: Accountability

Big Idea of the Message: We must make choices to remain faithful to God’s expectations even when it would seem easier not to do so.

Application Point: God calls us to examine the things we consider important in our lives and take measures to correct wrong priorities.

Discussion Questions: Use the extra space below to write out your answers.

Story – What’s taking place?

1. What was one main theme that stood out to you from the verses?
2. What is the most difficult decision you had to make this past week? Do you think it will change the course of direction for people close to you? In what ways?

Wound/Tension – How does this experience affect you or your outlook?

3. Joash was a strong leader so long as he was led by Jehoiada; however, when Jehoiada died, Joash seemed to lose his moral compass. Why do you think this was? What could he have done to prevent this?

Healing – What are you learning about God and yourself?

Big Idea of the Message: Trust of and obedience to God are the keys to answering life's greatest challenges.

Application Point: When God says He will be faithful, we must accept that His faithfulness is worthy of trust. He has a proven track record.

Discussion Questions: Use the extra space below to write out your answers.

Story – What's taking place?

1. What is the main story or themes that stood out to you from the verses during Sunday's message and what you just read?

Wound/Tension – How does this experience affect you or your outlook?

2. How important are our parents in the way we grow up?
3. How does Hezekiah's story challenge your answer to #2?

Healing – What are you learning about God and yourself?

4. Can you think of someone who went the opposite way of their parents, in a positive way? How so?
5. Hezekiah took it upon himself to truly "be the change" in Judah. In what ways did he go about cleaning the house of the Lord?

Call – What is God showing you from this experience to help encourage others?

6. As a result of Jesus's work on the cross, we as the church have become the house of the Lord. What might Hezekiah say to us today about cleaning the house of Lord?

Week 6: Josiah

Text: 2 Kings 22:1–4, 11–20; 23:4–23

Topic: Obedience

Big Idea of the Message: God's calling in our lives will have impact on those around us and those yet to come. We must always be watching for his lead so that we might follow him.

Application Point: The most important lesson we can learn in life is to serve God with abandon so that He can be honored regardless of what the outcome may be.

Discussion Questions: Use the extra space below to write out your answers.

Story – What's taking place?

1. When it comes to these passages of scripture, how has obedience been instrumental in your life story?

Wound/Tension – How does this experience affect you or your outlook?

2. In what ways did Josiah spur a revival in Judah?
3. What were some of the things he had to do in order to make way for that to happen?

Healing – What are you learning about God and yourself?

4. How might we need to model ourselves after Josiah's leadership to make way for revival in our own lives? Our churches?

Call – What is God showing you from this experience to help encourage others?

5. Who is one person that you believe has allowed the Holy Spirit to stir revival in his or her heart? What kinds of changes came about? How can you encourage this change in others?

