

Small Group Discussion Guide

Session Six

HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

CHECKING IN:

Does anyone have an update on their breakthrough prayer from last session? Or for those of you who had the opportunity to fast, share what that experience was like for you.

KEY VERSE

“Do not be afraid or discouraged...For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”
2 CHRONICLES 20:15 (NIV)

VIDEO #6: Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline (below). *Note: be sure to load the video on your computer prior to watching it in your group. Sometimes it takes some time to load it.*

VIDEO NOTES:

SIX LESSONS FROM KING JEHOSHAPHAT

1) Turn to _____

Never let a problem intimidate you. Instead, let it motivate you to pray! Seek God for wisdom before you do anything else.

- Remember _____
- Remember _____
- Remember _____
- Appeal _____

In essence, Jehoshaphat said to God, “I know who you are, I know what you have done, I know what you have said, and I know what you can do – and I’m asking you to do it again!”

2) Admit _____

Miracles never happen until you admit that the situation is impossible without God’s help.

3) Rely _____

Shift your focus from your problem to the Problem Solver.

4) Relax _____

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."

5) Thank God _____

Sing victory songs before you see the victory!

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.

The Israelites didn't run in fear; they stood firm in their faith. They didn't have to lift a finger; they just lifted their voices in worship and their enemies self-destructed. There is power in praise!

6) Expect God _____

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Choose the questions that are right for your group and take time to let God work in your lives.

- **Has there ever been a time when you stopped to praise and thank God first in a 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 crises in your life? What does it say about your faith?**

- **40 Days of Prayer has concluded. How has your relationship with God changed/grown in the past 40 days? How will your prayer life be different moving forward?**

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Be doers of the Word by applying the things you are learning.

IN YOUR GROUP—PRAY TOGETHER

Jehoshaphat didn't try to handle his crisis alone and neither should you. If anyone is in crisis, or in need of a big breakthrough right now, gather around them, place your hands on their shoulders and pray for them. Close your time together by giving thanks as a group – thanking God for his presence and for his victory in your lives.

IN YOUR LIFE: PRAY THE PLAN

If you or someone you know is going through a crisis, use Jehoshaphat's model of prayer this week.

1. Turn to God for help with these three reminders: Are you not, did you not, will you not?
2. Admit your inadequacy.
3. Rely on God's resources.
4. Relax in faith.
5. Thank God in advance for hearing and answering your prayer.
6. Expect God to turn your battle into blessings.

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL: For those who have the 40 DOP Study Guide.

Encourage your group members to read the daily verse and do the reflection questions.

BEFORE YOU GO: WHAT DECISIONS DO YOU NEED TO MAKE AS A GROUP THIS WEEK?

- **PLAN A PARTY!** Have you made plans for a party with your group to celebrate what God has done in your lives through this study of 40 Days of Prayer? A party is an excellent opportunity for you to invite new people who might be interested in joining your group. Talk about your celebration before you leave your meeting. Where will you have your party? When will you have it? Will it be a potluck or a barbecue or will you call out for pizza? Divide up the responsibilities and get ready to enjoy a great time of fellowship.

What is the plan for your group going forward?

- 1) Continue as a group for another 4-6 week study. Since the holidays are upon us, you could set a date to reconvene the first week of January. We will also give

you a resource called 12 Ways of Christmas— 12 ways to engage your small group during the holiday season.

- 2) If your group is not going to continue—consider starting your own group after the first of the year. For more info on how to do this, email groups@crossroadscolorado.com
- 3) Join another small group. For more info email groups@crossroadscolorado.com

Being in a small group is one of the best things you can do to maximize your growth. It's how God has made us (for relationships).