

Bible Topics ~ Friends, Truth, and God ~ Discussion Questions

In 2 Chronicles 18, the story of King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahab of Israel going into battle together raises many questions applicable to us today.

1. 18:3. Ahab, a strong but very evil king, asked Jehoshaphat to join him waging war against Ramoth Gilead (a city of refuge east of the Jordan river). Questions:
 - A. Who are you allied with today? Who are you loyal to?
 - B. Do the people you are allied with (your friends) have worthy goals?
 - C. Do you share your values with them?
 - D. Do you feel challenged by them? Inspired? Do you inspire them?

2. 18:4-6. Jehoshaphat wanted to honestly seek the advice of the Lord.
 - A. Do you ask God about all things? Not just the big things, but the small things, the details?
 - B. Do you wake up and ask God, "What do you want me to do today?"
 - C. If God doesn't respond immediately or the way you want or not at all, do you then go and do your own thing? Or what?

3. 18:7. Ahab did not want to inquire of Micaiah because he was honest and often said what Ahab didn't want to hear. Do you surround yourself with truth tellers or with people who say what you want to hear? (Proverbs 27:6, 12:26, 19:20)

4. 18:15. Even Ahab recognized that Micaiah was not telling the truth.
 - A. If someone flatters you but it is not the truth, would you call him on it?
 - B. Can you always recognize truth? It's easy to recognize an out-and-out lie, but what about flattery? How about a little white lie? Or lying by omission?
 - C. Do you really want to hear the truth?

5. 18:18-22. (Also Job 1:6-12). A spirit put lies in the mouths of Ahab's prophets.
 - A. Do you believe that God has a relationship with Satan and his followers that He (God) occasionally uses to accomplish His purpose?
 - B. Does that mean that all lies, temptations, and sins come from Satan?

6. Ahab was tripped up by his arrogance and belief in his own power. He didn't want to hear the truth and when he heard it, he ignored it. Do you ever do that? What trips you up? At some time in your life, perhaps many times, one or more of these three things will trip you up: fame/pride, money, sex. Can you avoid being tempted by these things? How can you resist these forces? (1 Corinthians 10:13, 15:33, Philippians 4:13, Colossians 3:2, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:11, Proverbs 27:17)

Bible Topics ~ Friends, Truth, and God ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. How does the Bible say you should choose your friends? (Proverbs 12:26)
2. There are many benefits of having good friends. What are three of them:
 - A. _____ (Proverbs 11:14, 19:20)
 - B. _____ (Proverbs 27:17)
 - C. _____ (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
3. The Bible also tells us that we should *not* become friends with six different types of people:
 - A. _____ (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - B. _____ (Proverbs 13:20, 14:6)
 - C. _____ (Philippians 3:2)
 - D. _____ (2 Thessalonians 3:6)
 - E. _____ (Romans 16:17)
 - F. _____ (1 Corinthians 15:33)
4. What did Jesus say was the greatest mark of a friend? (John 15:13-15)
5. What did Job say were two marks of bad friends? (Job 6:14-17)
6. Do your close friends tend to be older or younger than you?
7. What kind of people do you like to spend time with? What do such people bring out in you that others do not? Do you look to different friends for advice than you do for companionship?
8. What can people learn about you by looking at your friends?
9. Given the choice of anyone in the world, who would you want for your close friend? Why? Do you think a friendship with this person would last? Do you think that person would want you for a friend? Why or why not?