# Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

BIBLE BACKGROUND

## Jehoshaphat Asks God for Help

Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah at about the same time that Ahab was the king of Israel. God was with Jehoshaphat in his early days as king because he followed God and didn't worship Baal. Jehoshaphat's father, Asa, had done much to return the people of Judah to the worship of God, and Jehoshaphat followed in his footsteps. Because of God's blessing, Jehoshaphat grew powerful. Leaders of the lands around Judah sought his favor by bringing him gifts (2 Chronicles 17:1-13). The number of fighting men available to Jehoshaphat was astounding—more than a million men, according to 2 Chronicles 17:14-18.

When Jehoshaphat learned of the threat of a vast army invading from Edom, he didn't respond by sounding the battle cry and mustering his troops. Rather, he went to the Lord to discover what God wanted him to do. This king was a man who had his priorities right!

# God's Unusual Response

God responded to Jehoshaphat's prayer through Jahaziel. His message must have been tough to accept. How could they win a battle without fighting? But Jehoshaphat responded in faith and encouraged his fighting men to meet their enemies without initiating the fighting.

At that time, it was not unusual for soldiers to go into battle shouting and chanting war cries. However, Jehoshaphat's command was different. Instead of trumpeting their own strength or courage, his soldiers were to summon God's help through their praise and worship.

# The Battle Belongs to God

In the ambushes described in 2 Chronicles 20:22-23, the allied armies coming against Judah apparently

began fighting one another in the confusion of battle. This event is similar to the victory God provided Gideon and his 300 men against the Midianite army (Judges 7:22).

After God won the battle for them, the armies of Judah carried off the plunder of war; then they gathered specifically to praise God for the victory. When they returned to Jerusalem, they went immediately to the Temple to praise and worship God there. The fear of God came upon the surrounding countries, and Jehoshaphat and Judah were rewarded with rest as a result of their obedience.

#### The Jesus Connection

We who follow Christ are citizens of his amazing kingdom. When we face difficult battles, Jesus is beside us. He gives us wisdom and a strategy that eventually leads to victory and peace.

Reread Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12.

Notice that he declares the power of God, remembers the works of God, and acknowledges his dependence on God. Consider the battles in your own life, and write a similar prayer of praise and petition to God. You can write your prayer here.

Adult

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Lesson 13

Fall Quarter

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Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory—2 Chronicles 20:1-30

**▶ Bible Point**—God helps us with our problems.

Key Verse—"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).



# **Daily Challenges**

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- Find other verses in the Bible that remind you that God wants you to turn to him when you're afraid or worried. Commit them to memory this week, so you'll remember them the next time a tough situation comes along.
- Write down the anxieties you're facing. Take your list and throw it away, and then ask God to help you keep those anxieties "thrown away" and not take them back. If any other anxieties come to mind this week, write those down and throw them away, too.
- If there's a friend or family member who's anxious right now, share with him or her how God loves us and wants us to cast our cares upon him. Offer to help in that situation, if you can, and keep that person in prayer.

# Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives on relying on God for help with problems.

#### Monday: Psalm 112:7

How does trusting God help us when we're afraid?

#### Tuesday-Psalm 56:4

What can you do to remember this truth the next time you're experiencing anxiety?

#### Wednesday-Matthew 8:26

How does faith help us not to fear?

#### Thursday: Luke 12:4

Why is it important for you to not be afraid of what people can do to you?

## Friday-Luke 12:32

How can knowing this help us with daily anxiety?

# Saturday—Psalm 94:19

How has God consoled you when you've felt anxious?

## Talk Topics

- Talk about tough situations and times when you've trusted God. What were the benefits of trusting God? What things prevented you from trusting God? How were you able to trust God through the difficult moments?
- Discuss the Key
  Verse, 1 Peter 5:7.
  What does it mean
  to "cast all your
  anxiety on him"?
  What happens
  when we do this?
  Does God always
  help in ways
  we can see and
  understand?
- Talk about
  someone you know
  well who has faced
  tough moments,
  but has trusted
  God through them.
  What is this person
  like? How has trust
  in God shaped who
  he or she is?

