

Growth Groups Study on 1 Kings 1 – Who is in Control

The goal of this growth group study is to encourage each other to put into practice what we learnt on Sunday. Feel free to prayerfully work out and discuss what this means. With these studies in Kings you will need to read the chapter in advance of the Growth Group as the chapters are too long to read together.

Recap and Feedback from Last Time

Last time we were challenged to be better sowers. Share what experiences you've had with giving the Gospel over the last week (good or bad).

Introducing the Issue

What things worry or frighten or upset you when you look at the state of the Church (and even our church) today? How does the main principle of this passage address the issue, bringing you comfort and confidence?

Reflecting on 1 Kings 1

What interesting things did you notice in this long, enthralling chapter!?

What must we teach those who are newer in the faith about how we should read and apply narrative passages like this one (and this whole book)?

Think about the role Nathan played. Without being embarrassed, discuss who you would go to in our church (other than the Pastor) and what would you do, if you felt there was something happening that was endangering the (spiritual) life of the Church? What if it was the Pastor's action that was causing the danger?

Discuss why do you think, if God is almighty and in control, that He allows bad things to threaten His Church? Is there anything in this passage that backs up your answer?

What situations in our Church life, can be interpreted as thou God is not in charge? How can we encourage each other by pointing to lessons in this chapter, that God really is in charge? So, what should we pray?

Although this is quite personal, (if you can) share one difficult situation in your life you feel God doesn't seem to be in charge of. Ask your Growth Group to help you look to the God in this Chapter in order to enable you to surrender that situation to Him and act in dependent trust.

In what practical ways can we encourage each other to trust in the sovereignty & sufficiency of the God who has made us His children in Christ?

This chapter ends with God's chosen King being revealed (with implications for those who rejected his rule). How practically, can we encourage each other, to have the reality of the Lord Jesus' return, motivate us to act in faith?

Things for prayer:

Praise God that He loves His Church because of Jesus and has rescued us and will sanctify and glorify us.

Pray that His name would be exalted in Calne and that He would use us to do it.

Pray for the upcoming Christianity Explored Course – that we would be wise and bold in inviting people.

Thank God for His increasing our number and ask that we would be united, encouraged and 'on mission' together for Jesus.

Continue to pray for those recovering from illness and those bereaved and those on the fringe of our church community. Pray that we will support them, befriend them and encourage them.

Continue to pray for our community and country in the wake of people getting more worried about Coronavirus. Ask God that individually and as a growth group you may be a blessing to your neighbours and give them the hope of Jesus.

Pray for each other's needs