

Lessons from Zedekiah

1. Read online or print out the description of the Fall of the Kings at http://www.hosannalc.org/WebStory/smallgrouppdf/SG_StudyGuide_Ch17.pdf

Read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and 52:1-11.

Take some time to talk about your first impressions about this king Zedekiah. What stood out to you as you read these passages

2. What kinds of disasters have you witnessed where a city or country has “fallen” or has experienced significant destruction – were there warnings ahead of time that disaster was coming? What was the result of the disaster?
3. Jeremiah 27:9-10 has a specific warning for the kings. What is it?
 - b) What has your view been regarding the use of horoscopes or fortune tellers? Is it harmless? What does this passage indicate? (See also Deuteronomy 18:13-14).
 - c) Why do people chase after advice that may even be irrational, rather than obey God’s commands?
 - d) In times of stress or decision making, there are many voices that try to persuade us to act one way or another. Who or what do you find trying to influence you when you are in times like these? How do we hear God’s voice through all the noise?
 - e) God set some specific boundaries for Zedekiah (which Zedekiah did not obey). Have you ever pushed against a “boundary” that God has set for you? What makes people do this? What are God’s intentions when he sets a boundary for us?
4. Zedekiah rebelled against God and against the King who gave him the throne. 2 Chronicles 36:11-17 lists his sins. Go through each sin and try to bring it into a modern context to explain what each sin might look like in our day or even in our own lives.
5. The Bible is full of teachers. As students, we learn from the great men and women of faith, but we also learn from those who have made great errors. What is your “take-away” from the life of Zedekiah?