

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

1 & 2 KINGS

Tom Holladay

 Cover Image

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions, small group study. This 7-week study is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. It's usually better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. You can access this podcast study on 1 & 2 KINGS by downloading the DrivetimeDevotions app for your phone or by going to DrivetimeDevotions.com.

HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out unless you want to.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.

WEEK ONE: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 1-7



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK ONE



CHECKING IN

1. If you're just starting as a group, take some time to get to know each other by going around the circle and sharing your name, where you grew up, and something about your life.
2. What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?



KEY VERSE

"So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:9 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you consider how Adonijah and others tried to take the throne in 1 Kings 1, what are the "pretenders" (like emotions, desires, or the approval of others) that most often try to take control in your own life? *1 Kings 1:5-10*
2. Looking at David's charge to Solomon to be strong and walk in God's ways, where do you currently feel the greatest need for God's strength, and how can this group help you seek His direction in your daily decisions? *1 Kings 2:1-4*

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3. When you think about Solomon admitting he was like a little child who didn't know how to carry out his duties, how hard is it for you to admit when you don't know what to do, and how can we encourage each other to lean on God's wisdom rather than our own understanding? *1 Kings 3:7*
4. Considering that Solomon could have asked for wealth or a long life but asked for a discerning heart instead, what does your current prayer life reveal about what you value most right now? *1 Kings 3:8-9*
5. When you reflect on the principle of building with the right materials and the right leaders, how are you intentionally inviting others to help you build your family, career, or ministry, and what specific area do you need our support in right now? *1 Kings 5:13-16*
6. Remembering that the temple was built in an atmosphere of quiet worship without the sound of hammers, what practical steps can you take this week to cultivate a sense of God's peace in the middle of your busiest projects? *1 Kings 6:7*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

This week, spend 10 minutes each morning in quiet worship, asking God for wisdom and inviting Him to take charge of the "throne" of your life before the day's demands begin.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that each member of the group would have the courage to dethrone any "pretenders" in their lives and seek God's wisdom above all else this week.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 8-14



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK TWO



CHECKING IN

1. Did you spend time in quiet worship this past week, and how did it affect your mindset as you faced the demands of each day?
2. What is one promise you remember making when you were younger, and did you end up keeping it?



KEY VERSE

"Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses."

1 Kings 8:56 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. In light of Solomon boldly declaring what God has done before a vast assembly, how easily do you find yourself talking about God's faithfulness in everyday conversations with people who don't know Him? *1 Kings 8:14-21*
2. Knowing that Solomon's dedication included immense sacrifices as a gift of trust, what is something you might need to sacrifice right now—like your time, comfort, or resources—to more clearly show those around you that you trust God completely? *1 Kings 8:62-64*

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3. Seeing that Solomon praised God by saying "not one word has failed" of His good promises, what is a specific story of how God kept a promise to you that you could share to encourage someone else in our group who is struggling? *1 Kings 8:56*
4. Despite his wisdom, Solomon's heart was led astray because he valued other things over obedience; what "good" things in your life are you tempted to prioritize over following God completely? *1 Kings 11:3-4*
5. Recognizing that Solomon's heart was "not fully devoted," unlike David who always returned to trust even after failing, how do you typically respond when you fail, and how can we help each other return quickly to trusting God instead of pulling away? *1 Kings 11:4-6*
6. Thinking about the warning that "how we finish is more important than how we start," what is one small compromise you need to address today, and how can this group hold you accountable so you can finish strong in your faith? *1 Kings 11:9-13*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

This week, think of one person who doesn't know the Lord, and share with them a specific story of how God has been faithful in keeping His promises in your life.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that each person would have the boldness to declare God's faithfulness publicly this week, and that the group would encourage one another to finish strong without compromise.

WEEK TWO



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK THREE: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 17-18



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK THREE



CHECKING IN

1. Did you share a story of God's faithfulness with someone last week, or at least look for an opportunity to do so?
2. If you had to eat the exact same meal every day for a month, what would you choose?



KEY VERSE

"Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

1 Kings 18:37 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When considering how Jeroboam let his fear of losing his position drive him to build idols and turn his back on God, what fears in your own life tend to distract you from following God completely? *1 Kings 12:26-32*
2. Thinking about how Elijah was reduced to the basics at the Kerith Ravine where he depended entirely on God for food and water, how has a time of scarcity or struggle in your own life helped you learn to rely more on God? *1 Kings 17:1-6*

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

3. Recognizing that Elijah could have complained when the brook dried up but instead trusted God's provision through the widow, how can we encourage each other to renew our confidence in God rather than complain when our own "supply" of energy or support runs low? *1 Kings 17:7-12*
4. Reflecting on how the widow of Zarephath obeyed by sharing what little she had which opened the door for a miracle, in what area of your life is God calling you to take a step of obedience and give even when it feels like you don't have enough? *1 Kings 17:13-16*
5. Seeing that Elijah took a huge personal risk by confronting Ahab and standing alone against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, what is a risk of faith that you feel God might be asking you to take in your workplace, family, or community? *1 Kings 18:16-19*
6. When you look at how Elijah prayed for the fire to fall so the people would know that the Lord is God, how can our group help you pray with that kind of bold reliance on God's power for a specific breakthrough in your life? *1 Kings 18:36-39*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

Identify one specific fear that holds you back from trusting God fully, and share it with a trusted friend or mentor this week to help you take a step of faith.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that the group would grow in their trust of God's provision during difficult times and have the courage to take personal risks in their faith.

WEEK THREE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FOUR: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 19-2 Kings 02



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FOUR



CHECKING IN

1. Did you share a fear with a friend or mentor this past week, and how did that conversation go?
2. If you had a whole day of absolute silence and no responsibilities, what is the first thing you would do?



KEY VERSE

"The LORD said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Considering that Elijah sat under a broom tree feeling like he had reached his limit and was all alone after his greatest victory, when have you experienced a deep emotional letdown or physical exhaustion right after a significant success or busy season? *1 Kings 19:4-5*
2. Looking at how God's first response to Elijah's weariness was to provide him with food and sleep, how well are you doing right now at treating your physical rest as an important part of your spiritual health, and how can we encourage you to prioritize it? *1 Kings 19:5-7*

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

3. Seeing that God invited Elijah to voice his complaint in the cave instead of scolding him, how comfortable are you with pouring out your raw frustrations to God, and what keeps you from doing it more often? *1 Kings 19:9-10*
4. Noting that God revealed Himself to Elijah not in the dramatic wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper, how can you practice stepping back from the noise of your busy life this week to hear God's quiet direction? *1 Kings 19:11-13*
5. When you look at how God reminded Elijah he was not alone and gave him specific tasks to anoint new leaders, how does focusing on serving or mentoring others help pull you out of discouragement, and how can we support you in those efforts? *1 Kings 19:15-18*
6. Knowing that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit which showed a bold desire for the responsibility of ministry, what significant responsibility are you currently asking God to trust you with, and how can we pray for you in that area? *2 Kings 2:9-10*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

FELLOWSHIP

Identify one person in our church or group who seems to be carrying a heavy load right now, and invite them out for coffee or a meal to offer a listening ear and remind them they are not alone.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that those who are tired would find true rest in God's presence this week, and that the group would learn to hear His gentle whisper clearly as they support one another.

WEEK FOUR



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FIVE: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 3-5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FIVE



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, what is one way you saw God provide for you or protect you?
2. What is the most memorable physical healing or recovery you or a family member has experienced?



KEY VERSE

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel." 2 Kings 5:15"

(NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you look at the bizarre command to dig ditches in preparation for rain, in what areas of your life is God asking you to step out and prepare for a miracle even before you see the water flowing, and how can we support each other in that hard work? *2 Kings 3:15-20*
2. Looking at the widow's obedience in collecting empty jars, what are the "empty jars" in your own life that you need to offer to God, and how can we encourage one another to see these empty spaces as opportunities for Him to work? *2 Kings 4:1-7*

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

3. Considering the servant's fear of embarrassment when told to feed the crowd with so little, how do you handle the fear of falling flat on your face when God calls you to step out, and how can our group help you trust Him when your resources seem inadequate? *2 Kings 4:42-44*
4. Reflecting on how Naaman initially went to the king instead of God for his healing, where do you personally tend to turn for solutions when faced with an overwhelming problem, and how can we hold each other accountable to bring our needs directly to God first? *2 Kings 5:4-7*
5. When you see how close Naaman came to missing his healing because washing in the Jordan seemed too ordinary, when have you almost missed God's work because it wasn't spectacular enough, and how can we help each other let go of our pride to follow His simple instructions? *2 Kings 5:8-14*
6. Thinking about the young captive girl who boldly pointed her master to God's prophet, how can we become more sensitive to the unspoken hurts of the people in our lives, and what practical steps can we take to point them toward God's hope this week? *2 Kings 5:1-3*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

Take time this week to intentionally praise God for a past "ordinary" miracle in your life, recognizing His power in the simple things.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that our group would have the courage to dig ditches and gather jars in faith, trusting God to bring the miraculous into our everyday obedience.

WEEK FIVE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK SIX: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 5-18



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, how did God help you step out in faith or prepare for Him to work in your life?
2. Have you ever been completely surrounded or outnumbered in a game, sport, or argument, and how did you handle it?



KEY VERSE

""Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'"" 2 Kings 6:16"

(NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you consider Naaman's immediate response to give God all the glory for his healing, how naturally do you point to God when you experience success, and how can we remind each other to give Him the credit rather than taking it for ourselves? *2 Kings 5:15*
2. Looking at how Elisha provided advance warnings to protect the king of Israel, what are some specific warnings from God's Word that you struggle to listen to, and how can we encourage each other to heed these warnings before we find ourselves in trouble? *2 Kings 6:8-10*

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

3. Reflecting on the moment God opened the servant's eyes to see the surrounding army of angels, in what current situation are you feeling outnumbered or overwhelmed with fear, and how can our group pray for your eyes to be opened to God's surrounding strength? *2 Kings 6:11-17*
4. When you look at King Joash's realization that the temple needed urgent repair, how can you prioritize your own commitment to worshiping God in a busy world, and what changes might we need to make to keep our foundation strong? *2 Kings 12:1-8*
5. Considering how the people had turned a past instrument of God's grace into the idol Nehushtan, what good things from your past have become distracting idols in your present, and how can we support each other in tearing them down? *2 Kings 18:1-4*
6. Thinking about Hezekiah's unwavering commitment to completely smash the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles, what halfway measures are you currently taking with destructive habits in your life, and how can we hold each other accountable to deal with them completely? *2 Kings 18:4*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

Share a story with a coworker or friend this week about a time God protected you or warned you, using it as an opportunity to talk about His goodness.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that God would open our eyes to see His spiritual protection around us and give us the boldness to share that confidence with those who are living in fear.

WEEK SIX



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK SEVEN: 1 & 2 KINGS Chapters 18-25



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CHECKING IN

1. Looking back at last week, how did God help you deal with a distracting idol or recognize His spiritual protection?
2. If you had to receive important news, would you rather get it via a phone call, a text message, or a handwritten letter?



KEY VERSE

""Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he didâ€”with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." â€” 2 Kings 23:25"

(NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the enemy's strategy of using lies and accusations to attack Hezekiah's confidence, what lies are currently making you feel insecure or defeated, and how can we stand together to remind each other of God's truth? *2 Kings 18:19-35*
2. When you consider Hezekiah's response to physically spread out the threatening letter before the Lord, what overwhelming "letter" or situation in your life do you need to lay out before God today, and how can we join you in praying for His victory? *2 Kings 19:14-19*

1 & 2 KINGS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

3. Reflecting on Hezekiah weeping bitterly in prayer after receiving devastating news, how comfortable are you with expressing your raw, painful emotions to God, and how can this group become a safe place for us to weep with one another? *2 Kings 20:1-3*
4. When you look at Josiah tearing his robes in deep conviction after hearing the Book of the Law, when was the last time God's Word caused you to drastically change your direction, and how can we encourage each other to read the Bible as if our lives depend on it? *2 Kings 22:8-13*
5. Considering Josiah's immediate action to celebrate the Passover and remove the idols from the land, what specific direction from God have you been hesitating to act on, and what practical steps can we help you take this week to follow through in obedience? *2 Kings 23:21-25*
6. Thinking about the tragic fall of Israel caused by a slowly diluted trust and sheer stubbornness, where in your life are you allowing your faith to be compromised by the culture around you, and how can we lovingly challenge each other's stubbornness before we drift away? *2 Kings 17:7-15*



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to "spread out" your biggest current challenge before the Lord in prayer, asking Him for the strength to follow His directions.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that we would have a heart like Josiah's, eager to rediscover God's Word and quick to humbly repent and change our ways when we fall short.

WEEK SEVEN



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.