

# “A New Resolution”

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## INTRODUCTION

The New Year is often associated with “Resolutions”. We may equate them with our good intentions to do better, or stop bad habits, but the idea of a resolution comes from resolving something, in other words, finding a solution to a problem. The word “resolve” can also mean to make a firm decision about something. In the book of 2 Chronicles we find the people of Judah resolved to seek God for a solution when they were attacked and outnumbered. Their story can serve as an example of how we should live in the Kingdom of God.

## Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What resolutions did you make for 2015? Have you been able to keep them?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### We Are In a Battle

**Q1. Read 2 Chronicles 18:3-4; 2 Chronicles 19:6-7, 9; 2 Chronicles 20:3; 2 Chronicles 15:12; Jeremiah 29:13**

It is easy to feel we must rely on our own resources when making difficult decisions. In the first three passages above, what are some ways that Jehoshaphat sought to involve God in making critical decisions? Waiting on God’s answer to our prayers can be hard. How did the people fortify their decision to seek God in 2 Chronicles 15:12? What is God’s promise to those who seek him wholeheartedly? How have you seen the blessing of God in your life as you have sought Him above all else?

### Life & Prayer in the Kingdom of God

**Q2. Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-6**

After declaring a fast, Jehoshaphat spoke in the assembly. Who was involved in the fast? Who was the king addressing in 2 Chronicles 20:6? With what truths about God did Jehoshaphat begin his prayers? How might those truths influence the faith of those who heard them? The next time you call out to God, remember to begin with a declaration of who He is, and let that truth increase your faith.

### Remembrance, Standing on the Promises, & Requesting

**Q3. Read 2 Chronicles 20:7-9,12-13; Jeremiah 29:11-14**

Look at the statements Jehoshaphat made about the circumstances that brought the people to that land. What important role did he credit God with in verse 7? Based on what they knew to be true of God, what did all of Judah expect as they stood on God’s promises? (See verse 9 & 12) What do you see in Jeremiah 29:11-14 that you can stand on in times of need?

## God’s Answer

**Q4. Read 2 Chronicles 20:14-17**

God sent His answer to Judah through Jahaziel. Based on what we see in verse 15, what was the most important thing that needed to be changed about Judah’s perspective? What do you find in verse 17 that Judah was not to do? What did God tell Judah they would have to do? Why was it important to hear the truth of verse 15 before being told what to do in verse 17? Do you still have battles that you are fighting on your own? If so, pray that God will impress on you the truth of these verses so that you can stand firm against the enemy.

## Praise Before & After the Victory

**Q5. Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-22, 27-28**

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat encouraged the people to believe God. What action did the king take to display his trust in God’s promises? What specifically did the people thank God for as they headed toward the enemy? Were the praises directed at what God does, or who He is? What difference does that make? How did the people respond after God had acted on their behalf?

## WRAP-UP

The truth is, we are all in a battle, spiritually speaking. At times we may glimpse the magnitude of our enemy and feel overwhelmed with fear. It is when we diligently seek to involve God in our battle that we can find real victory. We do that when we remember who He is, and what He has done. When we see God clearly, we have confidence to stand in the promises He has given us; loving promises of good and not evil. It is because of who He is that we praise God, before and after he gives us victory over our enemy.

## Memory Verse

... Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

2 Chronicles 20:15b ESV

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge:

Covenant with God to seek Him with your whole heart in the difficult decisions you face. Seek Him faithfully, even when waiting is hard. And praise Him before and after the victory is yours.

**Q1**

2 Chronicles 18:3-4 ESV - 3 Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?" He answered him, "I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war." 4 And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD."

2 Chronicles 19:6-7, 9 ESV - 6 and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment. 7 Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes." ... 9 And he charged them: "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart:

2 Chronicles 20:3 ESV - 3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2 Chronicles 15:12 ESV - 12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul,

Jeremiah 29:13 ESV - 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

**Q2**

2 Chronicles 20:5-6 ESV - 5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, 6 and said, "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

**Q3**

2 Chronicles 20:7-9, 12-13 ESV - 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you--for your name is in this house--and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.' ... 12 O our God, will you not execute

judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." 13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 ESV - 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**Q4**

Read 2 Chronicles 20:14-17 in your Bible

**Q5**

2 Chronicles 20:20-22, 27-28 ESV - 20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever." 22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. ... 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. 28 They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

Prayer requests con't \_\_\_\_\_

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