



SDG Discussion Guide

2 Chronicles 20

December 30, 2018

For starters:

1. What song title best expresses who you are: (a) "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"? (b) "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"? (c) "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"? (d) "I'm so Lonesome I Could Cry" (e) "Fools Rush In"?

2. When you are asked to give a public speech, what is your reaction: (a) "No thanks"? (b) "Depends on the crowd"? (c) "I love an adrenaline rush"? (d) "Line up the loudspeakers"?

Guideline: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address *these*. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Why does Jehoshaphat "proclaim a fast" for all of Judah? What has he learned from his close call in chapters 18 and 19?

2. In Jehoshaphat's public prayer, why does he tell God things that God already knows? Whom does Jehoshaphat blame for the invasion? How does Jehoshaphat evaluate Judah's chances?

3. Where is Judah's ultimate focus? What picture do you get from the terse description of verse 13?

4. How does God get his message to Jehoshaphat and Judah? How does the messenger's ancestry lend credibility to his words?

5. What are the key phrases in Jahaziel's message? How was the message received?

6. What reassurances did Jehoshaphat give on the morning of the battle?

7. Instead of disaster and loss, what does this battle hold for Judah? What feelings are expressed by Jehoshaphat and the people? How do they celebrate?

8. Compare the "serendipity" (happy discovery) in this chapter with experiences of your own.

9. How does the defeat of Moab and Ammon warn you about the common idea that the "bigger guy" always wins?

Spend some time in prayer. Thank God, and ask him to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Ask him to reignite your prayer life and let you hear his voice louder than ever in 2019 and beyond. Pause to hear anything the Lord may want to say to you or your group. Then continue to pray as you're led. Go forth this week enlivened and better equipped for prayer this next year.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).