



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Life Lessons with King Asa

**SPEAKER** Gary Koh

**THEME** Old Testament Kings of Judah - Lessons

**DATE** 18 and 19 Jul 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This week is the first of a series in which we study about the kings of the Bible and the lessons we can learn from them as we draw on the wisdom from the Word of God (Rom 15:4). In this sermon, Gary Koh shares about King Asa and three life principles that we can learn from his reign.

## SEEK THE LORD FIRST, OBEY IN DEED AND FINISH WELL

The three principles from 2 Chron 14-16 are to seek the Lord first, obey in deed and finish well.

### 1. SEEK THE LORD FIRST

The words “seek” and “sought” are repeated many times in 2 Chron 14-16 (2 Chr 14:4, 14:7, 15:2-4, 15:12, 15:15). King Asa commanded Judah to seek the Lord and all of Judah sought the Lord eagerly with all their hearts and souls. When Zerah the Cushite came against Judah, King Asa sought the Lord and the Lord gave him victory. “To seek” means to inquire of and for God and seek Him as a vital necessity, to long for God with all our heart and in earnest desperation. God is everywhere and as our Heavenly Father, His desire for us is that we seek after Him with desperation and longing. We should seek God first, making prayer and worship the steering wheel of our lives and not use Him as a spare tyre (Matt 6:33). We can start doing this by not just turning to God when we are in trouble but also acknowledging Him in both the very small and very big things in our lives.

### 2. OBEY IN DEED

King Asa did what was good in the eyes of the Lord. He commanded Judah to obey God’s laws and commands as well as remove idols (2 Chron 14:4-5, 15:16) Because of their obedience, God gave them peace (2 Chron 15:15). As we seek God first, we must also choose to obey. Faith and action come hand in hand (Matt 16:24). Obedience is not easy all the time. Jesus prayed that He would not need to be crucified but He ultimately obeyed the Lord (Matt 26:39; Phil 2:8). We can obey by acting on the Word of God and not on our feelings. Forgive, pray, give, encourage and love even when we do not feel like doing so. God says that if we love Him, we will keep His commands. When we obey God regardless of how we feel, the blessings of God will flow to us.

### 3. FINISH WELL

There was peace and no more war for the first 35 years of King Asa's reign when he obeyed God (2 Chron 15:19). When Baasha, King of Israel, came up against King Asa, King Asa made a treaty with the King of Aram to help defend them. King Asa was rebuked by Hanani, the seer, for not trusting in the Lord. He however did not repent but remained proud and threw Hanani into prison. King Asa furthermore did not seek God even when he suffered from illness. (2 Chron 16:7-12). Similarly, comfort and peace sometimes draw us away from God. We need to keep our faith strong and healthy by exercising our faith all the time, even when things are going well. Otherwise, we may grow complacent like King Asa and continuously drift further away from God. Pride will prevent us from enjoying the full blessings of God (James 4:6). Choose humility and do not let pride hinder us from coming into God's presence (Matt 26:39; Prov 16:19).

## CONCLUSION

"We drift *unintentionally*. We draw near *intentionally*." You may have lost your attraction for God and drifted away from Him unintentionally or lost your fire and are just going through the motions – attending cell, church and praying - when you need to. However, God wants you to stay on fire; He is calling you to restore your relationship with Him, to seek Him first and to walk in obedience. Will you heed the call of the Lord and intentionally draw near to Him again? Will you stay on fire and finish the race well?

# QUESTIONS

1. Think about how King Asa and the people Judah sought the Lord in the first years of his reign. Matt 6:33 says to “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well...” What does it personally mean to you to seek first the Lord?

2. Faith and obedience must go hand in hand but it is not always easy to obey Christ all the time. What do you think true obedience is? Share with another member an area in which you struggle to obey God or to do what is right.

3. It takes intentionality to draw near to God. What are present habits and circumstances that might stumble you from drawing near to God? How can you commit these areas to the Lord and have the cell to support you to stay focused on running the race and finishing well?