



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b> Leadership Lessons from King Jehoshaphat	<b>SPEAKER</b> Pastor Low Kok Guan
<b>THEME</b> Old Testament Kings of Judah - Lessons	<b>DATE</b> 25 and 26 Jul 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Pastor Kok Guan taught us that leadership can be defined as 'having influence over someone else'. With this definition, each one of us is a leader in one way or another. This is because we will be interacting and influencing the people around us. This can happen anywhere - in school, home, marketplace, church. Hence, our decisions and actions can positively or negatively impact the lives of those around us.

From the story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 17-21, Pastor Kok Guan highlighted 3 aspects for developing and maintaining godly leadership to ensure that the blessings and protection of God continue to be with us and those whom we have influence over.

## THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

### 1. EQUIP OTHERS WITH GOD'S WORD (2 CHRONICLES 17)

After the death of King Asa, his son Jehoshaphat succeeded the throne of Judah. Jehoshaphat sought after God and walked in His commandments. He removed the high places and wooden images from Judah, and sent his leaders and priests to teach the Book of the Law in the cities of Judah. As a result, the fear of the Lord came upon all the kingdoms of the land around Judah. So, while the northern kingdom of Israel remained in Baal worship and did not have rest, the southern kingdom of Judah grew in power and enjoyed prosperity and peace. From this passage, we learn that God's Word transformed an entire nation of Judah, and it started with a wise leader who decided to walk right with God and to empower his people to walk right with God by equipping them with the transformative Word of God.

### 2. ENGAGE CHALLENGES WITH GOD'S HELP (2 CHRONICLES 20)

After some time, the Moabites and Ammonites allied themselves in a great multitude against Judah. Outnumbered and powerless, Jehoshaphat and all of Judah cried out to God in prayer and fasting, saying, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you". In other words, they trusted God to deliver them. God heard their cries and spoke through one of the priests in the assembly. God said that the battle belonged to Him, and Judah need not fight in this battle. That was all they needed to hear! With full confidence in God, all of Judah united in faith supported Jehoshaphat to send out worshippers to the frontline, and they sang and praised God while waiting for the approaching enemies. This is an irrational move, but Judah knows that God was with them, so who could be against

them? That very day, God struck down all their enemies at a distance away, and just as God had promised, Judah did not need to fight at all. Since the people had walked in His Word, they knew God, they were able to trust Him, able to act in faith, and hence they experienced God's miraculous power. Such is the power of God's Word that their leader King Jehoshaphat had equipped Judah with.

Therefore, whenever we are faced with challenges, let us learn to respond as Judah did in the following manner and have the P.E.A.C.E. of mind that God is with us through our battles:

**P** - Pray as the Lord leads us

**E** - Encourage one another

**A** - Apply what you have learned

**C** - Come before God daily

**E** - Engage challenges with God's help

### **3. EXEMPLIFY PURSUIT AFTER GOD'S HEART (2 CHRONICLES 18-19, 21)**

Although King Jehoshaphat walked in the way of God, he did not do all that he should have. He erred in making a marriage alliance with Ahab the King of Israel (Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram married Ahab's daughter) and needlessly involved Judah in Israel's battle with Ramoth Gilead. Furthermore, Jehoshaphat did not remove all the high places from Judah and instead focused on his business partnership with Ahab's wicked son King Ahaziah (2 Chronicles 20:32-35). Eventually, after his son Jehoram succeeded him as king of Judah, Jehoram ruthlessly murdered all of his brothers (an act possibly influenced by his wicked mother-in-law Jezebel). This is a reminder that sins must never be taken lightly, that believers must stay away from ungodly influence, and must continue in pursuit after God's heart for His glory.

## **CONCLUSION**

Like the many kings before him, King Jehoshaphat started off right with God and was richly blessed. However, he had allowed success and the pride of life to distract him from doing all that he should have done for God. As believers, we must stay vigilant and be on guard against any thing that comes to steal, kill and destroy our faith. Let us hold our blessings loosely, so that we can hold on tightly to God who blesses us. This is the mark of a successful Christian leadership - fight the good fight, finish the race well, and keep the faith.

# QUESTIONS

1. When God assured Judah that they need not fight the battle, Jehoshaphat sent worshippers into the battle frontlines to sing praises unto God. What is the significance of this act? What does it tell you about Jehoshaphat's leadership and the people's faith in God?

2. King Jehoshaphat sent a choir before his armed forces in Judah's battles against its enemies singing praises unto God. To the eyes of the enemies, this may have seemed ludicrous. But the battle was not just a physical one; it was also a spirit-filled one, which caused the enemies of Judah to be struck dead instantly. How have you engaged God's help in seemingly insurmountable challenges that have come your way, and came out victorious?

3. King Jehoshaphat started off strong with a heart full of praise and adoration for God. However, the decision to enter a marriage alliance with King Ahab soon proved to be his undoing and the start of the descent of his family into disgrace. Often in life, believers start out with good intentions and are full of fire for the Lord, but they sometimes get lost in the wilderness due to poor decisions. How can we as a church encourage each other to stay the course so all may enter through the narrow gate?