

Small Group Guide – Week 20

Transition in the Kingdom

The Church at Brook Hills

May 17-23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29:10-22

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

A Final Prayer

In 1 Chronicles 29, David's life and forty year reign as king of Israel comes to an end (vv. 26-30). He accomplished exponentially more than his predecessor, Saul. In fact, where Saul's life ended tragically on a battle field, David's life ends triumphantly on the thresholds of the soon-to-be erected Temple. David ends his reign as king as faithfully as he began his reign as king.

Throughout 1 Chronicles, David takes major steps toward actualizing God's desire and intent to dwell in the midst of His people (see, 2 Samuel 7:1-17). David conquered Jerusalem and brought the Ark of the Covenant into the city. In addition to securing peace and prosperity in Jerusalem, he conditioned the people of Israel to consider constructing the Temple their most important and immediate objective. His leadership was so well executed that people not only offered their time, energy, and resources willingly but also joyfully. One might be tempted to laud David with praise and acclaim for his accomplishments. One might be equally tempted to think David would be quick to accept such esteem and accolades. However, David curbs such enthusiasm by clearly crediting God for all that took place during his reign as king. Just before anointing Solomon as his successor and himself being laid to rest, David fixes everyone's attention in the gathered assembly of God's people upon the greatness and glory of God. In so doing, 1 Chronicles 29 reports David's final prayer.

Study the Text . . .

Adoring God (vv. 10-13)

In vv. 10-19, David honors God as God by praying a thoroughly God-centered prayer of adoration. He gives God credit for his past success and appeals to God for Solomon and Israel's future success.

In vv. 10-13, David blesses the LORD in the presence of all the assembly (v. 10). He adores God's eternal fatherhood (v. 10), universal kingship (v. 11), and gracious generosity (vv. 12-13). God gathered the people of Israel together as His children and committed Himself to caring for them. Thus, Israel owed her very existence to God. The inclusive "our" in verse 10 encouraged all those gathered that they too can adore God and appeal to Him as father, not just David. David also announces God's universal kingship in verse 11. A string of praises is listed: greatness, power, glory, victory and majesty, followed by a comprehensive acknowledgement of His sovereignty. Everything in heaven and in earth belongs to God.

Small Group Guide – Week 20 Transition in the Kingdom

The Church at Brook Hills

May 17-23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29:10-22

After affirming *who God is* for His people, David turns his attention to *what God does* for His people. As eternal father and universal king, God established David as His earthly, representative ruler of His people. God bestowed riches and honor upon him. David gives general credit to God for his and, subsequently, Israel's success. David becomes more specific as his prayer unfolds. Ultimately, he expresses gratitude and gives God glory for all that He has done (v. 13).

- What works has God accomplished thus far in Israel's history?
- What does it mean to "bless" the LORD?
- Why did David bless the LORD publically?
- What is significant about the use of "our" in verse 10?
- What does David say about God in these verses?
- What does David say about what God does in these verses?
- Where else is God referred to as "father" in the Old Testament? Or, "king"?
- What similarities do you find between David's prayer at the end of his life and the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13?

Group Discussion . . .

- What elements are necessary for a God-centered prayer?
- How does knowing what God is like affect how we address Him in prayer?
- What does adoring God as *both* eternal father *and* universal king do for our faith? Why might it be unhealthy if we reflect on one aspect of who God is to the neglect of the other?
- Why does David focus on who God is for His people before focusing on what God does for His people?
- Should we draw public attention to the worth and work of God in our lives? If so, how might we do so?
- Are you quick to credit God for your various successes in life? Why or why not?
- What is gratitude?
- How does expressing gratitude glorify God?

Study the Text . . .

Appealing to God (vv 14-22)

In verses 14-17, God's gracious generosity sharpens into focus. Since all things belong to God and come from God, the people are only able to serve God with the resources supplied by God. Had He not lavished Israel with resources then the people would have nothing to offer God in this moment. Had God not given David strength and power to lead Israel in battle and conquer their enemies to enter Promise Land, then they would have no place to gather. Not only does God supply the material resources, but He also supplies His

Small Group Guide – Week 20

Transition in the Kingdom

The Church at Brook Hills

May 17-23, 2010

1 Chronicles 29:10-22

people with the spiritual resolve and immaterial motivation for accomplishing his purposes. The worship taking place in this moment and that which will occur in the future takes place by God's gracious generosity.

Just before dying, David takes a moment to pray for the people and Israel and his son Solomon. He asks God to supply them with the spiritual resolve and immaterial motivation necessary to complete the task of constructing the Temple. In a similar way, just before Jesus died on the cross, He interceded for his disciples (see, John 17). He too prays for God to supply His disciples with the necessary resources for advancing His kingdom in the world.

The scene ends with David leading the people to bless the LORD as he has just done. The people proceed to assume the appropriate posture of worship: prostration and surrender (vv. 20-22).

- What does God take pleasure in? (v. 16)
- How does David describe the people's worship? (v. 17)
- What material resources does God supply the people with? (vv. 16 and 21)
- What sort of spiritual resolve and immaterial motivation does God supply the people with? (v. 18-19)
- What three components make up David's prayer? (adoration, accreditation, and appeal)
- Why does David pray for the people? (v. 18)
- What does David pray for Solomon? (v. 19)
- Compare David's intercession with Jesus' intercession in John 17.
- Specifically, how do the people worship God? (vv. 20-22)

Group Discussion . . .

- What do we learn about worship from David's prayer?
- What do we learn about prayer from David's prayer?
- Why could prayer be described as the posture of dependence?
- Why does God sometimes lavish His people with material resources?
- How might we use what God gives us to serve God and accomplish His purposes?
- What kind of heart pleases God?
- What does David's prayer for Solomon imply about the human heart?
- How might we be found upright in our relationship with God?
- Is it appropriate to ask God to supply what He requires?
- Is it encouraging to hear David ask God to supply what He requires?
- How does knowing Jesus prayed for God to supply what is needed for the accomplishment of God's purposes strengthen faith?
- How might we depend upon God to accomplish His purposes?
- How might we live in such a way to ensure that people will adore and accredit God for all that has taken place in our lives when we die?
- What do you think it would look like for you to finish faithfully?