

**Week Three – Jehoshaphat: A Truth Seeker**  
**2 Chronicles 18:1-34**

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day One**

1. If you were going to ask someone for a big favor, how would you ask him or her? In person, over the phone, in a text? Does the size of the favor make a difference in how you would make the request?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 18:1-4 and summarize the plan for which King Ahab wanted Jehoshaphat's assistance.
3. Look again at verse 2. King Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for Jehoshaphat's visit. The ESV version of the Bible translates the term as an "abundance." Why might King Ahab have felt the need to offer an abundance of hospitality to gain Jehoshaphat's support in his plan?
4. Jehoshaphat agrees to help King Ahab with one stipulation. What was it? (See verse 4.)
5. Apparently it would take more than extravagant hospitality to make Jehoshaphat forget what God commanded His people to do. Has there ever been a time where someone tried to entice you into making a decision before you could think it through? Did you remember before or after you agreed to his or her request?
6. What steps could you take to habitually remember to consult God before you make decisions?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN by confessing those times you've forged ahead without considering what God would have you do. Then ask Him to help you remember Him going forward.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two**

8. In the 1992 movie *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson's character delivered the classic line, "You can't handle the truth!" to justify his part in a cover-up during military court-martial proceedings. Are there situations that warrant concealing truth? Why or why not?
9. Continue reading about King Ahab & Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 18:5-7. (Back up to verse 1 if you need context for this request.) What was Jehoshaphat's reaction to the advice of the 400 prophets?
10. We can tell by Jehoshaphat's question that the prophets were prophets of Baal and not God. How is checking with the right sources just as important as asking the question in the first place?
11. What was King Ahab's reason for not asking Micaiah, a true prophet of God?

12. Are there people in your life that you can trust to speak honestly to you when you want the truth? Are their people who will sugarcoat the truth? How can you tell the difference between them?
13. Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4. What happens when we only listen to those who will tell us what we want to hear?
14. Close your FIFTEEN by asking God to give you the courage to consult the God-honoring truth tellers in your life so that you will not be tempted to turn away from God's truth.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three**

15. Describe a time when you asked someone for his or her honest opinion and later regretted asking for it because you really didn't want to hear the truth.
16. What did you learn from that experience?
17. Read 2 Chronicles 18:7-24. Micaiah was told by the messenger exactly what the king wanted to hear. After walking into a party of over 400 prophets already telling the king what he wanted to hear, Micaiah did what he was told to do. Why might King Ahab have discounted Micaiah's first answer?
18. We can't know why King Ahab doubted Micaiah's first response. Maybe it was his tone or maybe it was because King Ahab believed that Micaiah never prophesied favorably for him or he was just afraid of being told he was making a mistake. (verse 17) How can you tell if someone is just telling you what you want to hear?
19. Hearing the truth can be painful. And sometimes when we are really in the wrong, we wish we had a friend who would slap a truth teller in the face for us. Does that type of action accomplish anything? Why or why not?
20. Ultimately, the truth can't be changed. You can line up all of the yes-men you can find, but the truth can't be changed. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you be open to the truth, even if it is painful.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four**

21. Is it harder for you to hear a painful truth or to speak it to someone else? Why?
22. Skim through the narrative in 2 Chronicles 18:1-24. In your opinion, do you think the truth was harder for King Ahab to hear or for Micaiah to speak? Explain your answer.
23. Continue reading 2 Chronicles 18:25-27. King Ahab ordered Micaiah held until he returned from battle. What does this say about his faith in Micaiah's prophecy?

24. Read 2 Chronicles 18:28-33. Notice in verse 28 that the king wears a disguise. What does this action say about his faith in Micaiah's prophecy?
25. Micaiah's words were ultimately proven true and King Ahab, who tried to hide from the truth, perished. Jehoshaphat, who sought the truth, went on to live in peace for years. What can we learn from Jehoshaphat's example?
26. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking God to help you learn from Micaiah and Jehoshaphat's example to be a truth seeker so that you can live in peace.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five**

27. Be honest. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you enjoy being right? Explain how you decided on your answer.
28. Look again at 2 Chronicles 18:27-33. How does Micaiah say the validity of his prophecy would be known? (verse 27)
29. Who was proven right?
30. There's a definite parallel between Micaiah's oath and one we see in the New Testament. Read Acts 5:38-40. How does Gamaliel, an educated Jewish leader, say the people could tell if the movement started by Jesus was from God?
31. Read Romans 12:17-19. Being right is not always the path to peace. Describe a time when your insistence on being right created strife in your relationship with someone else.
32. There's a balance to be found between being a truth seeker and being a truth speaker. How can we speak the truth to those who need to hear it without causing tension in our relationships and ultimately alienating people?
33. We know that Micaiah's words were ultimately shown to be true because they were from God. The same is true of Jesus. Almost 2000 years later, His kingdom is still advancing because it is from God. Read the words of Psalm 25:20-21 and finish your FIFTEEN by using these words as your prayer.