FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

LIFE GROUP, RIVERSIDE

TITLE: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

SESSION SIX: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

KEY VERSE: “do not be afraid or discouraged…For the battle is not yours, but God’s.

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:15(NIV)**

Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army from Edom is

marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already

[about two days away]"...Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news.

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:2-3 (NLT)**

**SIX LESSONS FROM KING JEHOSHAPHAT:**

• **Turn to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for

guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting.

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:3 (NLT)**

Never let a problem intimidate you. Instead, let it motivate you to pray! Seek

God for wisdom before

you do anything else.

• **Remember \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven?

You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are

in your hand, and no one can withstand you."

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:6 (NIV)**

 **2**

• **Remember \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"O God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before

your people Israel?"

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:7 (NIV)**

• **Remember \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"Did you not... give [this land] forever to the descendants of

Abraham your friend?"

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:7 (NIV)**

• **Appeal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"You would not allow us to invade their territory when we came

up from Egypt; so we turned away from them and did not destroy

them. See how they are repaying us... O our

God, will you not judge them?"

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:10-12**

In essence, Jehoshaphat said to God, "I know who you are, I know what you

have done, I know what you have said, and I know what you can do-and I'm

asking you to do it again!"

• **Admit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us.

We do not know what to do..."

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:12 (NIV)**

Miracles never happen until you admit that the situation is impossible

without God's help.

"With man, this is impossible, but with God all things are

possible."

 3

 **MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV)**

• **Rely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:12 NIV)**

Shift your focus from your problem to the Problem Solver.

• **Relax \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army: For

the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this

battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance

the Lord will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:15, 17 (NIV)**

When you put your life in God's hands, your battles become his battles, and

your enemies become his enemies. And God says to you, just like he said to

Jehoshaphat, "Relax. I've got this."

"Have faith in the Lord your God, and you will stand strong. Have

faith in his prophets, and you will succeed."

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:20 (NCV)**

• Thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sing victory songs before you see the victory!

Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise

him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the

head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love

endures forever."

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:21 (NIV)**

 **4**

Thank God for what he is going to do, even though you don't know how he

is going to do it. If you thank God after the fact, that's gratitude. But if you

thank God in advance, that's faith.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

 **HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)**

At the moment they began to sing and to praise, the Lord caused the

armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to begin fighting among

themselves, and they destroyed each other!

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:22 (TLB)**

The Israelites didn't run in fear; they stood firm in their faith. They didn't have to lift a finger; they just lifted their voices in worship, and their enemies self-destructed. There is power in praise!

• Expect God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Not a single one of the enemy had escaped. King Jehoshaphat and

his men went out to gather the plunder. They found vast amounts

of equipment, clothing, and other valuables-more than they could

carry. There was so much plunder that it took them three days

just to collect it all! On the fourth day they gathered in the Valley of

Blessing, which got t its name that day because the people praised and

thanked the Lord there. It is still called the Valley of Blessing today:

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:24-26 (NLT)**

When you let God fight your battles, it is a witness to everyone around you.

When all the surrounding kingdoms heard that the Lord himself

had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over

them. So Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had

given him rest on every side.

 5

 **2 CHRONICLES 20:29-30 (NLT)**

Discovery Questions:

Choose the questions that are right for your group and take time to let God work

in your lives.

* Has there ever been a time when you stopped to praise and thank God first in a moment of crisis? If so, how did that act of faith impact your perspective on the crisis? What changes did you experience physically, emotionally and mentally-were you less anxious or worried, etc.?

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* + Jehoshaphat prayed, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2 Chronicles 20:12 NIV). Is there a situation that is overwhelming or intimidating you? What steps can you take to shift your focus from your problem to the Problem Solver?

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* + Pastor Rick said, "When you let God fight your battles, it is a witness to everyone around you." What are you communicating to the people around you by the way you handle the crises in your life? What does it say about your faith?

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