

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
NOVEMBER 26-27, 2011
KINGS, PROPHETS, & EXILE



1. Tell your group about what you did for Thanksgiving.
2. Most of the kings after David and Solomon did not follow God's ways. Read Jeremiah 2:1-12. What was Israel's relationship with God like at the beginning (vs. 2-3)? What did Israel do wrong (vs. 5-8)? Why do you think God is so shocked in verses 10-11? Why do you think God takes these things so personally (what image does God use to describe His relationship with Israel in verse 2)? Based on this passage, is sin breaking rules or hurting a person? Which way of thinking about it better motivates you to avoid it? Why?
3. Israel's sin has consequences. Read 2 Kings 25:1-3. How long was Jerusalem under siege? What do you think the people were thinking at this point?
4. Read 2 Kings 25:8-12. How would you describe the destruction brought upon Jerusalem? What do you think the people would be thinking/feeling now? Did God want this to happen? Do you think God causes or allows nations to be conquered as a consequence for their sin today? Why or why not? In what ways does God discipline His people today (see Hebrews 12:5-11)? What is God's motivation for discipline?
5. Jeremiah sends a letter to those in exile in Babylon. Read Jeremiah 29:4-11. What attitude are the Israelites to have towards the Babylonians? Would you have been able to pray for the welfare of your captors? After seeing your homes and place of worship destroyed and being carried into a foreign land, how would you have reacted to verse 11? How has God brought hope to your life during difficult times?
6. What do you think of Pastor Nathan's "Create a Story of Hope" challenge? What are some ideas you have to bring Jesus' hope to the people around you these next weeks?
7. Pray as a group for the things that are on your heart and mind.

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THE STORY CONTINUES...

After the death of King Solomon, his son Rehoboam becomes king of Israel. However, some of Israel rebels against him and the nation is split in two. The years past and kings come and go, and many kings do not follow God's way. God sends prophets to warn the people and call them back to God. However, the people in general do not respond. Finally, God allows the Assyrians to conquer the northern kingdom (Israel) in 722 B.C. Then in 587 B.C. the Babylonians conquer the southern kingdom (Judah), destroy everything, and carry the people into exile. The prophets offer hope that God has not forgotten His people.

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