

Use the following growth group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his word and others.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: What is the most memorable destruction or disaster that you have seen firsthand?

1. List the evil things that King Manasseh did to arouse the LORD'S anger (pp. 231-232). How did Judah compare to the pagan nations that the LORD had driven out of the Promised Land (p. 86)?
2. What are the "starry hosts" (p. 231)? What are the implications for astrology, horoscopes and other fortune tellers?
3. Are the people or their king the most culpable for the sins of Judah? How can believers today avoid being led astray?
4. What happened to King Manasseh? What do you think led him to change his ways?
5. Review Isaiah's prophecy (pp. 225-226) and compare his predictions with the events during the reigns of Kings Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah.
6. How does the Christian mission today resemble Ezekiel's mission of sharing God's Word with the Jews?
7. According to Jeremiah's prophecy (pp. 238-240), what single condition must be met for God to forgive Jerusalem? Are you as forgiving as God? Why or why not?
8. Nebuchadnezzar's final siege lasted 18 months ending in 586 BC. How did King Zedekiah regard the LORD? What was God's final word to him?
9. Jeremiah grieved for Jerusalem after its fall (pp. 243-245). What did he believe about God's Upper Story? What specifically can we apply to our own lives from his lament and praise?
10. What did God promise He would do for Israel in spite of their great sin, the Babylonian exile, and their stone hearts (pp. 245-246)? What does this teach you about God's heart for His chosen nation?

CALLED TO IMPACT OTHERS

17/31 in the series The Story

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Obedience to God brings fulfillment, and disobedience leads to failure. It was predicted, modeled and seen over and over. While many of us could provide some personal stories as evidence of this, today's example is one from a nation. Either way though, the point remains. Faithfulness to God is always the right choice, even if we need to stand alone.

1. **Sometimes its best not to follow the leader** - (*2 Chronicles 36:15-16; 2 Kings 21:1-2; Ezekiel 36:23*). People are complex, so let's just try to keep ourselves in line.
2. **Babylon proved to be even more terrible than the bad kings of Judah** - (*2 Kings 25:1-7*). God loves us too much to leave us to our self-destructive disobedience.
3. **God had a plan, and you are in it** - (*Jeremiah 1:4-5, 9-10*). Whose life are you called to positively impact?

Application

Have you accepted God's call in your life to be faithful and to impact others?

NEXT WEEK : THE SHACK