Kings of Judah: Abijah & Asa

Introduction: Abijah and Asa were kings who experienced moments of remarkable faith, and moments of painful drift. Their stories remind us that spiritual strength isn't measured by how we *start*, but by who we *rely on* all the way to the finish. What if the greatest danger to our long-term faith isn't failure, but forgetting who we depend on??

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time where you (or someone) got off to a great start on something, but just didn't finish? What makes finishing well difficult?

2. Read **2 Chronicles 13:14-18** Abijah shows deep faith in crisis, even though his life wasn't consistently devoted to God. What do you notice about the way God responds to *momentary* faith? Why do people sometimes show strong faith in one moment but drift in another?

3. Read **1 Kings 15:3** Abijah's heart "was not fully devoted to the Lord." What does a *divided heart* look like today?

4. Read **2 Chronicles 16:7-14** Asa trusted God in the big crisis (Cushites) but relied on human strategy in the smaller one (Israel's blockade). Why is it sometimes *harder* to trust God in small problems than in big ones?

5. Asa's decline began decades into faithful leadership. Why do long-time believers sometimes drift into self-reliance, complacency, or spiritual "cruise control?" What practices can help you finish well rather than simply start well?

6. How does Asa respond when he is confronted with a message from God? What makes a heart that had been eager to obey God become one that resists his correction?

7. Both kings show that victory comes from reliance, not talent, strategy, or history. What helps you discern whether your confidence is rooted in God or in your own ability, comfort, or experience?

Shaping Your Mind – For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." — *2 Chronicles 16:9a*

Moving Forward –A surrendered heart brings strength; a self-reliant heart eventually breaks.