

Two Kingdoms, Two Paths
2 Kings 17-19
Small Group Discussion Questions

Opening Reflection

1. The sermon defined crisis as a time of intense difficulty, stress, or trouble. Why do you think crisis is such a universal human experience?
2. When you hear the word *crisis*, what kinds of situations come to mind for you personally?

Crisis Reveals What Is Already There

3. The sermon emphasized that *crisis does not create faith or unbelief—it reveals it*. Why is that distinction important?
4. Can you think of a time when a crisis revealed something about your faith, fears, or priorities that surprised you?
5. Why do you think God sometimes allows crisis to expose what has been growing beneath the surface?

Israel's Fall: Compromise Exposed (2 Kings 17)

6. The northern kingdom of Israel drifted gradually away from the Lord over many generations. The Assyrian crisis revealed Israel's misplaced trust in foreign alliances rather than in God. What modern "alliances" do people often turn to instead of trusting the Lord?
7. The sermon said, "*What we tolerate in peace will rule us in crisis.*" What does that statement mean to you?

Judah and Hezekiah: Faith Revealed (2 Kings 18–19)

8. Judah faced essentially the same Assyrian threat as Israel. Read **2 Kings 19:1, 14** together. What stands out to you about Hezekiah's first response to the crisis?
9. Read 2 Kings 19:14-19. How does Hezekiah's prayer model honesty, humility, and trust in God?

Same Crisis, Different Responses

10. Why do you think two people—or two communities—can face similar crises and experience vastly different outcomes?
11. According to the sermon, what did the Assyrian crisis reveal about Israel? What did it reveal about Judah?

Crisis as an Invitation

12. When you personally face a crisis, what is usually your *first instinct*—to control, avoid, panic, withdraw, pray, or something else?
13. The sermon offered four practices for responding faithfully to crisis. Which one do you find most challenging? Why?
 - Naming the crisis honestly before God
 - Allowing the crisis to diagnose, not just disrupt
 - Sharing the burden with God's people
 - Remembering God's past faithfulness
14. What might it look like for a crisis to *diagnose* something unhealthy in your life rather than just disrupt it?
15. What fears or obstacles keep people from asking others for prayer or support?

Gospel Reflection

16. The sermon reminded us that Jesus entered fully into humanity's greatest crisis—sin and separation from God. How does that truth shape the way you view your current or future crises?