



If You Want God's Favor, Then Do This

Icebreaker: If you could own a food truck, what would you sell?

Read Together: Romans 15:4 (ESV)

Discuss:

- The Bible is given for our instruction. What is your first reaction to instructions? (Do you throw away the instructions or follow them step by step or something in between?)

Read Together: 2 Kings 21:1-6 (NIV)

Discuss: Manasseh

- Manasseh was a prideful king, even though he had a great example in his dad, Hezekiah. He wanted to follow his truth rather than THE truth. Whom do you know that has gone their way even after being raised to honor God?
- Manasseh set up idols in the temple and reinstated demon worship in Israel. His acts were blatant. We don't always blatantly set up idols, but sometimes, we find idols in our own lives that may have snuck in. What are some things that may have become idols in your life?
 - *"An idol is anything more important to you than God. Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. Anything you seek to give you what only God can give. Anything that is so central and essential to your life, that should lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living."*
- Timothy Keller (Counterfeit Gods)

Read Together: 2 Kings 21:20-21 (NIV)

Discuss: Amon

- Amon followed the evil ways of his father... completely. How interesting that the King was willing to follow and "obey" the evil that he saw around him but ignored the ways of God. Where do you see evil being obeyed implicitly while the Bible is ignored?

Read Together: 2 Kings 22:2 (NIV), 2 Chronicles 34:3a (NIV), 2 Chronicles 34:3b (NIV), 2 Kings 22:11 (ESV), 2 Kings 22:19 (NLT)

Discuss:

- Josiah had been raised by a prideful Father and yet chose to follow in the footsteps of his ancestor, David. He chose to be humble and follow the true God. Do you care more what people think about you or what God thinks about you?

- The scroll of the law in the temple was found by the father of the Prophet Jeremiah. How interesting that God was using the men in that family to woo His people back to Him in different ways according to their position and calling.
- Josiah was following God, but when the book of the law was read, he realized how much he and the people were not in line with God's commands. He repented, and God heard him and forgave him. What are some ways that God may be calling you back into alignment with himself?
- Grace follows Humility. Josiah found grace when he repented to the Lord. How have you experienced God's grace when you realized you were out of line and repented?

Read Together: 1 Peter 5:5-6 (NKJV), 1 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV), Psalm 138:6 (NLT), Isaiah 57:15 (NLT)

Discuss:

- Humility is the key that unlocks God's favor in your life. When we choose humility, we need to do so with a heart that isn't seeking results. Choose humility to gain closeness to God. He extends the invitation to us. Will you choose humility?
- We can Humble ourselves before God by our own choice. We do not have to learn the hard way through natural consequences or the humbling that comes for our own good. Will you choose to humble yourself before you need correction?
- Sometimes we can get so educated that we begin to think we know it all. What is God trying to show you that may be new?
- Why do you think God would keep his distance from the proud?
- Where does Isaiah tell us God lives?

Read Together: Philippians 2:5-9 (NLT)

Discuss:

- What are some ways that you want to emulate Jesus today?

Prayer:

Father, I want to be seen and heard and respected, yet I know that closeness with you requires humility. You alone deserve the adoration that I crave. As I choose to humble myself, please reveal more of yourself to me. Help me to recognize your goodness. Help me to walk in a humble view of myself and you. Help me to credit you for all you have done and look you to leading my days. I want your will for my life because I believe that you have the best for me. I submit myself to you today. I humble myself and trust you in all I do and speak. In the name of Jesus, Amen.