

Discussion Guide For the Week of Nov. 4, 2018

Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-20; 1 Samuel 16:7; Isaiah 1:1, 11-18

- Here is a basic summary of what is going on in 2 Chronicles 30: the Jews had not been following God's commands regarding the Passover, an important worship celebration. And even when they tried to correct their error by celebrating the Passover, they didn't follow the required formalities. Even the priests themselves messed up.
- Given that basic understanding of what's going on in 2 Chronicles 30, what strikes you the most regarding King Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Chronicles 30:18-19? What about God's response in 2 Chronicles 30:20?
- The prophet Isaiah was a contemporary of King Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1). Consider what God said through Isaiah in Isaiah 1:11-18. Why would God tell the Israelites he was sick and tired of their religious formalities?
- 1 Samuel 16:7 makes it clear God cares more about the condition of our hearts than the way we appear. This truth can apply to the way we approach worship and religious rituals / formalities. God is more interested in our making a commitment of our hearts to Him than he is that we follow certain religious formalities. Formalities without faith is empty. Rituals without heart is worthless. Isaiah 1:13-14 suggests it is a sin to go through the motions of worship if our hearts are not properly tuned in to God.
- Make it personal: Ask God to forgive you for the times you have committed the sin of heart-less worship. How can you make sure your heart is properly tuned in to God and not just going through the motions of religion? What changes do you need to make in the way you approach worship?