

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

When you hear the word "**power**," what comes to mind?

- ☐ Political authority
- ☐ Strength or control
- ☐ Influence or leadership
- ☐ Corruption or abuse
- ☐ Other: _____

Have you ever thought you were "in control" of something—only to realize later that you weren't? What happened?

Read 1 Kings 12 : 1 – 24

The Illusion of Power

Rehoboam and Jeroboam both tried to grasp for control—but God was quietly accomplishing His plan.

Why do you think people crave control so much?

What are some ways we chase the *illusion* of power in everyday life?

- ☐ Managing every detail of work or family
- ☐ Financial security
- ☐ Image or reputation
- ☐ Relationships
- ☐ Other: _____

Rehoboam ignored wise counsel and followed the advice of his friends.

Why is it so tempting to listen to the voices that tell us what we want to hear?

When have you experienced God working through your mistakes or failed plans?

Verse 15 says this was “*a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD.*”

What comfort does it give you to know that God’s purposes stand even when our decisions are foolish?

The Reality of Weakness

When the people rejected Rehoboam, they also rejected the house of David—and ultimately God’s plan of salvation. How does pride keep us from trusting God’s control?

Anxiety and control can feel like holding a beach ball underwater to describe anxiety and control.

Where in your life are you trying hardest to keep that “ball” underwater?

What might it look like to “let go” and trust God’s sovereignty this week?

- ☐ Pray instead of plan
- ☐ Ask for help
- ☐ Rest instead of overwork
- ☐ Admit weakness
- ☐ Other: _____

How does Jesus show us the opposite of grasping for power?

Encouraging One Another

The same God who was sovereign over Rehoboam’s failure is sovereign over your life.

How can we remind one another of this truth when fear or anxiety takes over?

What would change in our church if more people truly believed God was in control?

Work It Out!

One area where I will **let go of control** and trust God this week:
