

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GUIDE: November 7, 2010
Route 66 (a spiritual journey through God's 66 books)
"DRIVING IN A LAWLESS TOWN" (S. Kingdom Kings)
Highway: I Kings 12-end; II Kings; II Chronicles 10-end

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some of the benefits and blessings of having a godly employer or leader?

DIG INTO IT

1. While all 20 of the Northern Kingdom kings of Israel were evil, 6 of the 20 Southern Kingdom kings of Judah were somewhat godly to very godly—Hezekiah being the most-godly. Name the God-pleasing things Hezekiah did and the blessings that came from his obedience? Read II Kings 18:3-7a
2. The Assyrian (Assyria was located in the area that is modern day Iraq) army was known for cutting off feet, hands and heads of those they conquered. Assyrian King Sennacherib destroyed 46 walled cities of Judah (during King Hezekiah's time) for not paying their taxes. He hung their leaders' bodies on stakes around those cities to send a message. Then he attacked Jerusalem. List Sennacherib's lies to the people of Jerusalem and describe his mockery of the LORD God of Israel in II Kings 18:28-35.
3. When threatened by Assyria, Hezekiah prayed. What did he pray for and how does his prayer counter the idea that "many religions lead to the same God"? Read II Kings 19:14-19 [Note: "LORD" in the English Bible is the Hebrew word for God's personal name: *Yahweh* as explained in Ex 20:1-3, "I brought you out of Egypt...have no other gods before me"; Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD, that is my name! I will not give my glory to another"; and Deut 6:4-5 "the LORD is one"]
4. Explain the details of how the Lord answered Hezekiah's prayer. Read II Kings 19:20, 32-34.
5. When Hezekiah found out that Assyria was going to attack Israel and Judah, he decided to bring spring water inside the city by cutting a tunnel through 600 yards of solid rock from the Gihon Spring (outside of Jerusalem's walls), to under Jerusalem's walls and inside the city (II Kings 20:20; II Chronicles 32:30). You can walk through this tunnel today. In the end, Hezekiah barely had to use it. Why? See II Kings 19:35-37.

DISCUSS IT

1. Like Sennacherib mocked Yahweh (LORD) of Israel who "created the world and led Israel out of Egypt," so people today mock Jesus and our faith in Jesus. Yet the Bible says in Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived: God can not be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." What does that passage mean in light of the fact that people *do* mock our Lord?
2. The prayers of God's people are always answered according to God's will—for our best. Tell of a time God answered your prayers as you requested or in a different way.
3. God blessed Hezekiah's obedience. Name ways God blesses obedience to his commands today.

PRAY ABOUT IT: Lord of mercy and grace, help us do what is right in your sight, just as Hezekiah did. Amen.