

How Do I Start?

Welcome to **day 12** of our 21 days of prayer and fasting! Today's reading is no fun. It is a sad story of life without faith and obedience. The application for us is obvious. Do we want to live a life of obedience or rebellion? Well... after today's reading that should be an easy question to answer. While this story is tragic (and it doesn't get much better any time soon) the events are still ordained by God. God is still in control and He is leading His people even during a period of rebellion. It should stand out to us as a church that these unfortunate events began during a generational transition. Solomon all but rejected God in his old age and the next generation accelerated that trajectory. In 1 Kings 12 the story begins when the new generation rejects the wise advice of the elder generation. All of us should take heed here. How would things have been different if the new leadership had taken the wise advice of those with more experience? Why were the elders ignored? What happened to the elder's reputation and why were they not respected? If the Kingdom of God is an organization built on discipleship, what does it say about our (both generations) relationship with God when generational conflict rears its ugly head? How can this kind of conflict be avoided? I think we would be wise to ponder these questions and pray about their answers.

Things to pray about today:

1. Lord, protect us as we are in the midst of a generational transition in our church.
2. God, give us hearts that love You and love others.
3. Help us learn from the successes and failures of those who came before us and invest in those coming behind us.

Today's Reading - 1 Kings 12-14

Read the passage for today and write down anything that stood out to you. God primarily speaks through His word, so, if something "jumped off the page" that was probably God revealing something to you or to our church family. Write it down!

Pray

Write out your prayer. Or at least the main points. I like to do this section in a different color.

Listen

Take time to listen to what God is saying to you. Check your understanding against the truth of His word. He will never tell you something that contradicts His word. Be sure to listen throughout the day even after you leave the sanctuary. As He speaks, write it down! I like to use a third color for this part

Date: _____

What's on my mind?

Prayer

Today's Scripture

Listen