

UNITED WE STAND/DIVIDED WE FALL THE STORY LIFE GROUP CHAPTER 14

1. In this chapter we begin to see how a nation unravels when division comes. Pastor Dale talked about how division is one of Satan's top weapons to stop God's people from fulfilling God's plans. Satan is at war with our relationships.

- a. Describe a way that you've seen unity in your relationships attacked?
- b. Which of the seeds of discord can you relate to as an area where you need to be aware of, because you are vulnerable to seeds of division being sown. Another way of saying it is, "If Satan were going to attack your relationships, what weapon might he use or tempt you? **Circle 2 or 3**

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|------------------------------|---|
| -Fear | -Shutting down and hardening my heart |
| -Reacting with harsh words | -Being too proud to apologize |
| -Anger | -Making people feel small or ignored |
| -Comparing | -Holding grudges, Keeping score |
| -Putting labels on/judging | -Putting unrealistic expectations on others |
| -Listening or sharing gossip | - _____ |

2. We learn that at the source of division in the country was that the hearts of the people became divided in their loyalty with God. They put other idols before God and put their focus on getting what they wanted above what God wants.

Look at the following verse from James 4:1-2 and answer the question of how a divided heart with God causes conflict and how putting God completely first is the key to solving conflict.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask."

3. What can we learn about how we should and shouldn't connect with people through Rehoboam's example? How did he push people away and set the nation up for division? What can we learn about the importance of who we listen to when it comes to decisions about relationships? Who or what are voices you should be careful about listening to and some people that you should look for to listen to?
4. As you listened to the message, did you sense that there is a relationship that you need to learn to listen better in? What is one thing that would make you a better listener?
5. In our culture, relationships are often seen as disposable. As a result, we often cut people off, refuse to reconcile, or go deep. Why does the Bible say relationships, especially in Christ, are worth fighting for? Do you ever feel like giving up on church or important relationships? What should you tell yourself when you feel that?

6. God's Word teaches us that we can grow through conflict and even failures in our relationships. Can you think of a time where you went through the fire in a relationship and with Jesus' help that relationship came out better? What brave choices did you have to make for that to happen?
7. When it comes to having a reconciliation with people, what is the hardest thing for you? As you look below at a recommendation for how to do a reconciliation, what is something you could put into practice? Is there someone you would like prayer to build a bridge and ask God to remove a mountain for you.
(An option would be to ask if anyone in the group would like to role play a reconciliation)

HOW TO BRING A RECONCILIATION

1. This is what I did wrong-or what I did that hurt you.
2. This is the pain I believe I put you through as a result.

Here is where you ask for feedback
 - Did I identify and understand the pain you went through?
 - Is there something else I missed that would be good for me to know?
3. This is how I feel about the pain I put you through.
4. It is my sincere desire, as best as I can, to change this behavior and not bring this pain into your life again.
5. (Look at the person and ask them) Can you forgive me for the pain I have put you through in this wrong that I have done to you?