



## Defeating Compromise | Week 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message, we examined King Asa's life and learned from its positive and negative aspects and how it applies to us today.

### DISCUSSION

King Asa of Judah was a mostly righteous leader, following in the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather, King David. Asa sought to serve the Lord by removing pagan worship from the Temple and restoring faith in Jerusalem (1 Kings 15:11). However, he compromised by leaving the high places—pagan altars—untouched, allowing idolatry to persist (1 Kings 15:14). This decision was rooted in his desire to appease the farmers, who believed Baal provided their agricultural needs. Asa's compromises eventually led to severe consequences when Israel's King Baasha attacked Judah, seizing the very regions where idolatry thrived (1 Kings 15:16-17). Instead of seeking God's help, Asa turned to Syria for protection, even depleting the treasuries of the Lord's Temple in an unholy alliance (1 Kings 15:18-19). His story shows how compromise with sin can sabotage success and lead to destruction.

- Why do you think King Asa allowed the high places of Baal to remain, despite knowing they contradicted God's will (1 Kings 15:14)? How do we see this kind of compromise today?
- How does Asa's reliance on Syria instead of God (1 Kings 15:18-19) reflect times in our lives when we try to solve problems without seeking God first?

### Three Aspects of Asa's Life:

#### 1. Asa had a fervor for God.

King Asa was deeply committed to the Lord, as seen in 2 Chronicles 15:17, where it says his heart was fully committed all his life. Despite being raised in an environment that encouraged idol worship, Asa removed idols from the Temple and led the people back to God. His passion for God came from his commitment, which was fanned into flame by reinstating proper worship in the House of the Lord. Asa's life shows that fervor and passion for God grow through commitment and removing idols that lead to compromise.

Today, our idols may be sinful habits or influences, and God calls us to be living sacrifices fully consecrated to Him.

- What are some modern-day idols that can take priority over God in our lives, and how can we remove them, as Asa did in the Temple (1 Kings 15:12)?
- How does regular worship and gathering in God's house, like Asa reinstated, help us keep our passion for God alive?

## 2. **Asa experienced favor from God.**

Favor is God's blessing and grace. We don't earn God's grace and favor – we receive it and walk in it. King Asa experienced God's favor, which brought blessing, protection, and victory. When the Cushites attacked Judah, God intervened, striking them down before Asa and his people (2 Chronicles 14:12). This favor wasn't earned but received through faithfulness, as seen when the people sought the Lord wholeheartedly and God gave them peace (2 Chronicles 15:15). God's favor is described in Psalm 5:12: "For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield." Asa's story shows that God's favor protects, promotes, and brings peace, even in the face of opposition. However, Asa's compromise eventually limited the full potential of God's favor in his life and nation.

- Describe a situation when you experienced God's favor.
- What are some practical ways we can seek and walk in God's favor?

## 3. **Asa had a fracture with God.**

Asa's compromise led to a fracture in his relationship with God, affecting not only him but also future generations. While Asa was fully committed to the Lord (2 Chronicles 15:17), he did not remove the high places, leaving an area of disobedience. This compromise was passed down to his son Jehoshaphat, who also failed to remove the high places (2 Chronicles 20:32-33). Though both kings were good men who loved God, their incomplete obedience allowed idolatry to persist. Unresolved compromises in our lives can negatively impact our children and future generations.

- What specific areas of compromise in your life have you allowed to persist, and how might they be affecting your relationship with God and others?
- What practical steps can you take this week to fully surrender those areas and follow Jesus in wholehearted obedience, trusting Him to help you overcome?

## **LIFE CHALLENGE**

Evaluate your life for any "high places" of compromise—areas where you know you're not fully obedient to God. This week, commit to surrendering those areas to Him, understanding that small compromises can impact not only your life but also future generations.