



**Sermon Based Small Group
Leader Discussion Guide**

Sermon Title: "Growing and Giving"

**Sermon by Pastor Fred Oaks
Week of October 10, 2010**

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<p>Study Introduction (Group Leader)</p>	<p>Prior to meeting with your group, read through 2 Chronicles 29-31.</p> <p><u>Main Points:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revival brings joy (2 Chron. 30:23). 2. It is a gift of God made possible by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. dedicated leaders (ex. King Hezekiah of Judah, 2 Chron. 29:2), b. repentance from sin (2 Chron 29:5), c. renewed worship (2 Chron 29:28), 3. Revival results in generous giving (2 Chron. 29:31, 2 Chron. 31:10). <p><u>Historical Context:</u></p> <p>During King David's reign, the Hebrew people lived in what scholars refer to as the United Kingdom (c. 1000 BC). Following his death and partly due to the heavy burden that came along with the rich acquisitions of his son's, King Solomon, reign, the United Kingdom divided around 920 BC. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, established their capitol and place of worship in Samaria while the Southern Kingdom, Judah, worshipped in their capitol city of Jerusalem. By 722 BC the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed at the savage hands of their conquerors, the Assyrians. The Assyrians destroyed wealthy, established families by separating the members from each other and dispersing them throughout</p>

	<p>Assyria. Those lower income Israelites left behind were invited by Judah’s king, Hezekiah, to settle in the Southern Kingdom.</p> <p>King Hezekiah, king of Judah and a descendant of David, probably reigned from 715-686 BC. He enacted sweeping religious reforms and realigned his country with the worship of Yahweh, the god of their fathers. He removed non-Yahwehstic elements in the Temple in Jerusalem and surrounding countryside.</p>
<p>Personal Connection (Group Leader)</p>	<p>How does my story connect to the reading?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you read the scripture text for this week, were you inspired by Hezekiah’s example? • As a small group leader/apprentice leader, you are a leader at NW. How can you play a role in preparing the way for revival? • Are you experiencing authentic worship? • Is there a sin that you need to repent of in order to experience afresh the holy presence of God? If so, do not hesitate. • Are you grateful for God’s work in your life? Are you looking for a way to express gratitude to God? United We Grow is a wonderful way to be a join God where He is at work.
<p>Ice Breaker</p>	<p>What images or feelings do you associate with the word revival?</p>
<p>Big Idea</p>	<p>Revival is a gift of God and joyful celebration its natural result.</p>
<p>Sermon Text</p>	<p>2 Chronicles 29-31</p>
<p>Digging Deeper (Scripture)</p>	<p>Key excerpts listed here:</p> <p><u>Chapter 29</u></p> <p><i>1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. 3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them. 4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side 5 and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. 6 Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from</i></p>

Digging Deeper

(Scripture, continued)

the LORD's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. **7** They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. **8** Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. **9** This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. **10** Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us.

18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: "We have purified the entire temple of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles.

27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel. **28** The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped. **30** King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped.

31 Then Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the LORD. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the LORD." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.

35 There were burnt offerings in abundance, together with the fat of the fellowship offerings and the drink offerings that accompanied the burnt offerings. So the service of the temple of the LORD was reestablished. **36** Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

Chapter 30

26 There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

Chapter 31

1 When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

Digging Deeper
(Questions)

20 *This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. 21* *In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.*

Group Questions:

If you have your Bible, read the few preceding verses to our study text, 2 Chronicles 28:22-27.

1. What impression did King Ahaz's reign leave on his kingdom? On his family? On the Lord?
2. Considering the verses we have read from this week's scripture selection, note some differences between King Ahaz's legacy and that of his son, Hezekiah.
3. Read 29:8-10. What motivated Hezekiah to reestablish a covenant with the Lord? **Leader: Note that Hezekiah was convinced that the past actions of his predecessors against the Lord had led to great difficulty and judgment. Along with this belief came the conviction that renewing the covenant with Yahweh would lead to relief and restoration.**
4. In what ways did the people participate in this corporate expression of commitment to Yahweh? **Leader: Different groups of people responded according to their family role: some consecrated themselves to priestly tasks, some played instruments and sang, all worshipped. The Chronicler noted that the assembly brought offerings to the temple, according to their ability and heart (see 29:31b-35).**
5. According to Chronicles 29:31b-35, the people responded in a very tangible way to their restored relationship with the Lord. What convictions must have preceded their response?

<p>Taking it Home</p>	<p>How will I live it? Apply it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What role does acknowledging and repenting of one’s sin to God play in our ability to authentically worship? Leader: Encourage participants to take a few moments to reflect. Have they been able to worship lately or is something standing in the way? If they feel free to share with the group, a member of the group, or prefer to go privately to God, encourage them to take this step today. 7. What does renewed worship mean to you? Have you been sensing a prompting, a nudging toward a fresh start with God? 8. Describe an experience you've had with personal spiritual renewal and/or a church experiencing revival. Leader: a follow up question to this could be “If experiences of personal and/or church revival seem rare, what do you believe might be some reasons for that?” 9. What role have church leaders played in your spiritual growth? 10. Within the body of the church, what are some ways that you express commitment to God, joy, celebration, and gratefulness?
<p>Prayer Focus</p>	<p>How can I connect with God and others through prayer?</p> <p><i>Facilitator Tip: Some people are comfortable praying out loud, while others prefer to pray silently. Either is okay. The point is to connect people to God and with each other in a loving, supportive environment. If the group is large, you might want to break into smaller groups for prayer time.</i></p> <p>A group Care Coordinator is responsible for recording prayer requests and praises and emailing the list to the group during week.</p> <p><u>During the study</u>, allow the members to pray for each other as needs are voiced.</p> <p><u>After the study</u>, encourage group participants to share any prayer requests or praise reports.</p> <p>Record requests and praises here:</p>