



THE PROMISE OF *Peace*

TALK IT OVER

Embracing Uncertainty

Pastor Stacie Wood

April 13-14, 2024

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures Used

2 Chronicles 20:2 – 13, 16 – 17 (NIV84); Isaiah 26:3 (NIV84); John 14:27

Questions:

1. Share an uncertainty that either drew you closer to, or further away from, God. Why did that happen? What uncertainties are you facing now? How are these circumstances affecting your faith?
2. What hinders us from reminding God of his promises? Your group can support numerous situations for you in prayer by acknowledging our powerlessness and dependence upon God. Where has God demonstrated his power previously in answered prayer? How can reminding ourselves of his promises help us walk through uncertainty?
3. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.” The sermon examined two spiritual disciplines - meditation and fasting. Have you practiced these spiritual disciplines? Describe your experience. What are your thoughts about an extended fast from food? How could your small group encourage one another in growing spiritual disciplines like these?
4. When Jehoshaphat was facing uncertainty in 2 Chronicles 20:3, he “resolved to inquire of the Lord”. He had learned from a past failure that his first step in facing uncertainty must be to seek the Lord for direction. Has there been a time when you have faced a ‘foggy future’ or a ‘zone of unknown’? What was the first step you took in seeking to resolve

that situation? Did you seek the Lord for his direction, or did you seek the help of others? Why? If you did not seek the Lord first, what was the outcome?

5. You can have uncertainty and still be full of faith. We may not know all of God's plans, but we can believe that he will always give us the direction we need to take our next step. Life is an adventure and sometimes God allows uncertainty in our lives so that we will walk by faith. If God is asking you to step out in faith, how do you trust him for his direction to take that next step? Share what obedience without complete understanding looks like for you.
6. What loop of uncertainty are you trying to close? Are you able to trust God for the growth he is working in your life to embrace uncertainty? How can your small group use 2 Chronicles 20:17 to help you "take up your positions, stand firm, and see the deliverance the Lord will give you."

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:

<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>

2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curricula.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com