

Discussion Questions for “Overlooked Wisdom: Breaking Cycles”

1 Kings 15:1-16:34 (Reading: 15:9-15), Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of September 27th & 28th, 2025

Sermon Outline

Four Prayer Requests:

1. Pray to discern the downward spiral of sin (15:25-16:34).
2. Pray for the courage to break cycles of sin (15:9-15).
3. Pray to prioritize faith (15:1-16:34).
4. Pray for the “lonely lights” (16:1-14).

In these prayers, see the ministry of Jesus.

Sermon Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - a. Why *can* we pray we encounter bad news?
 - b. Why do we *need* to pray when we encounter bad news?
2. In 1 Kings 15-16, things get *worse*, not *better*. (See, especially 16:25, 16:30.)
 - a. As practically as you can answer, why do we need to come to terms with the reality that, sometimes, history moves in this direction?
 - b. To put it another way, what’s problematic with assuming that history will always progress positively?
3. Thinking about your answers to question #2...
 - a. What’s the difference between being wisely *realistic* and unduly *cynical*?
 - b. And why can a Christian have *hope* even when things are getting *worse*?
4. What steps did King Asa take to break the cycles of sin in his family (15:9-15)?
 - a. What parallels step can you take to break away from sin in your own life?
 - b. Why does it take *courage* to break cycles of sin?
5. Many of the kings in this passage had massive civic accomplishments (see 15:23, 16:24).
 - a. What principle is established, then, by how much time God’s Word spends on *their faith* instead of on *their accomplishments*?
 - b. How does this principle *encourage* you? *Convict* you?
6. Who are some “lonely lights” that need your prayer? Take some time to pray for them before your study or your LIFE Group concludes.
7. What glimmers of Jesus do you see in today’s passage?
8. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?