

Today's Topic: Independence Day/ History Repeating Itself?

6:15 Announcements (brief opening prayer)

6:20 Group time: Introductions. How's your week?
Your nudge report about increasing the value of your name/e.g. reputation.

6:35 Where is our Country Heading?: (In a sentence or short paragraph:
- If you could wave a magic wand and get what you want for our country and/for our people, what would that be?
- Discuss the phrase: *Those who fail to either know or remember history, are bound to repeat it.*

6:50 Leadership Examples from 2 Kings of the Old Testament:

Review the map of the divided Kingdom Notice locations of the north (Israel) and the southern kingdom Judah. Look at page 2 of the handout and note the listing of the kings. Notice King Ahaz & his son Hezekiah.

Read 3 attached scriptures about their character and their reign.

2 Chronicles 28:22,23

2 Kings 16:20b, 18:3-7

Isaiah 34:1-4

-What are your observations about the scriptures

That Was Then, This is Now:

-Without discussing specific people, (or politicians), where do you see the leadership of our nation going?

- From your initial (magic wand) discussion today What specific solutions seem possible?

-What characteristics are required of the next leaders of our country?

7:10 Praying for our Leaders

-2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Read: Attached 5 scriptures on How To Pray For Our President.

- **Take 2 minutes of silence. What is God's Spirit saying to you about this subject?**

7:15 Your Nudge for Following God's Commands

What's one thing you will do to support the leadership of our country.
Write it down. Each person shares with the group.

7:25 Prayer and Adjourn

7/2/17
The Bridge;
Independence Day / History Repeating Itself

Scriptures in the Lesson:

-2 Chron. 28:22-23 ²² In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD. ²³ He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him; for he thought, "Since the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me." But they were his downfall and the downfall of all Israel.

-2 Kgs. 16:20 ² Ahaz rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.

-2Kgs 18:3-7 ³ He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ⁴ He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan. ^[b])

⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶ He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. ⁷ And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

How To Pray For Our President

1. Prov. 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.
2. Prov. 29:12 If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.
3. Prov. 8:14-16 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power.
¹⁵ By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just;
¹⁶ by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth. ^[b]
4. Prov. 29:4 By justice a king gives a country stability,
but those who are greedy for ^[a] bribes tear it down.
5. Prov. 20:28 Love and faithfulness keep a king safe;
through love his throne is made secure.

Conclusion:

1 Tim. 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.