



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 5: Return

Suggested Week of Use: July 3, 2022

Core Passage: 1 Kings 15:9-22

News Story Summary

London, England, was filled with pomp and circumstance in last month, as Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. The celebration led many to reflect on the queen's influence over her 70 years of service. One area that received a great deal of attention was her Christian faith. While two of her titles are Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England, it's clear that Elizabeth has a personal faith as well. Even before her coronation in 1953, she had promised to devote herself to service, adding "God help me to make good my vow." Throughout her reign, she has spoken openly about her faith, particularly in her annual Christmas messages. For example, in one message she said, "For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life." While she often leads in various public worship services, she also attends church regularly. She once shared with Billy Graham how much she loves the Bible. One of the highlights of the Jubilee was a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral which the Queen was unable to attend due to health issues.

For more about this story, search "Elizabeth II's 70 years as head of the Church of England."

Focus Attention

To replace **FOCUS ATTENTION**, ask group members if they watched Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebration and what their impressions were. Say: *One thing that many royal watchers commented on was the Queen's faith over her 70-year reign.* Share information from the news story summary about the Queen's faith. Ask: *How do you think the Queen's faith has impacted her life and the way she tries to lead her country?* Share that today's lesson examines the life of Judah's King Asa, another long-serving monarch whose faith had a tremendous impact on his nation.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, remind the group of the discussion about Queen Elizabeth II's faith. Ask: *With all her wealth and power, what could have distracted Queen Elizabeth II from following her faith? How were she and Asa able to stay the course?* Encourage learners to examine their lives for things that might lure them away from their faith. Close with prayer that learners will choose to follow Christ daily no matter the circumstances.