

## Taking It Home

1&2 Chronicles remind us of the importance of knowing who we are and where we come from. Not everything that happened to us in our past was God's will. We see that in the life of Israel. The current generation was suffering because of the failure of the past generations. But God wanted the current generation to know where they came from and that He was presently involved in their lives. As you look at your life, understand that your past has helped to shape who you've become, but remember that you can have a new identity in Christ. What parts of your past do you need to forgive, forget, or learn from?



### **Small Group Lesson - 1 Chronicles February 16, 2014**

#### **Quick Review:**

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

#### **My Story:**

1. Are you currently watching the Olympics? Why or why not? If so, what is your favorite sport?
2. Are you rooting for the US or particular athletes?
3. Pastor Bob talked about how victims of head trauma are tested to see if they are "oriented times three". Have you ever experienced head trauma? If so, share your story. Did they ask you the three questions: who are you, where are you, what day is it?

## Digging deeper:

The book of Kings ends with Israel being taken captive to Babylon because of their sin against God. After seventy years God stirred up Cyrus the King of Persia to let the Israelites return home. Only around 50,000 or so decided to do so. This small remnant lived as foreigners in their own land. They were surrounded by strangers and disconnected from their families back in Babylon. They found themselves in an unfamiliar world and in desperate need of a national identity. 1&2 Chronicles was written to give them this identity by connecting the remnant with the nation of Israel from in past. Through the book of Chronicles the people got to see how they were God's chosen people in the past and that their current problems were the result of forgetting that truth. This both encouraged and warned them. The encouragement came from understanding if they obeyed God, He would bless them once again. The warning came by seeing what happened to Israel in the past when they disobeyed Him.

1. 1 Chronicles 1:1-9:34 traces the lineage (family history) of Israel back to Adam. Today we call this "origins". Discuss how our belief in origins impacts our personal identity.
2. 1 Chronicles 9:35-10:14 Records the tragic story of Saul. Read 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. If you were one of the post exilic community living in your homeland among a group of foreigners who were hostile to how you worshiped God, what lessons would you draw from this text?

3. 1 Chronicles 10:15-29:30 records the kingship of David. Why do you think the writer spends so much time on David? The writer also leaves out David's sin with Bathsheba. Why do you think He does that?
4. 1 Chronicles 21:1-30 record something called David's census. After much blessing and victory, David decides to count all Israel. Why do you think He did that?
5. 1 Chronicles 21:1 says that David was deceived by Satan to count Israel. Why would Satan want David to do such a thing?
6. In first 1 Chronicles 21:10-14, God sends the prophet Gad to confront David with his sin. God gives David three choices of punishment. What lesson can we learn from God giving David a choice in his punishment? According to 1 Chronicles 21:13 he chose a plague. Why did he do that?
7. Pastor Bob has shared several times on the Journey the pattern of the Bible. God gives potential, man blows it, God redeems man's mistakes. 1 Chr. 21 records that where the plague was stopped was the place that the temple would be built on. How does that show God's redemptive heart?