

# #LIFEHACKS

## 3. How to Avoid Messing Up

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read 1 Kings 12.1-20

**6** Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. 'How would you advise me to answer these people?' he asked.

**7** They replied, 'If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favourable answer, they will always be your servants.'

**8** But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.'

- Why do you think Rehoboam rejected the very advice that he had asked for in the first place? Have you ever been in a situation where you've done the same thing – asked good people for advice and then ended up not taking it?
- What are the dangers of just listening to people like you – those in the same position, at the same age and stage, with a similar perspective to you? Why do we find it easier to go with a peer group mentality, rather than taking individual ownership of our own decisions?
- v15. 'for this turn of events was from the Lord'. (Also v24). Here's a tricky question – was Rehoboam truly acting independently, or did God *make* him mess up in order to fulfill his prophecy to Jeroboam? Do we really have free will or are we just pawns in God's game?
- What would make it easier for you to seek out, listen to and act on good advice from other believers – particularly when it's something you don't want to hear?
- In this group, are we able to ask each other for advice on key life matters or tricky issues? Is a group like this the best context for that, or do we need something else as well?

Take some time to pray in twos and threes together. If you've got issues in your life, decisions you're struggling with, share what those are. Pray for the humility to be vulnerable with others, but also for increased confidence and security to trust ourselves to the right people. Pray for those going through tricky times, especially times of transition and trouble.