

## What to Do When You Don't Know

# What to Do

By Donna Pyle

Open with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your study of the Word.

**Have you ever been in a situation so beyond your comprehension or capabilities that you felt immobilized? Frozen in fear? Undone by uncertainty?**

**Whether it's family, finances, workplaces, or relationships, we've all been on our knees before God in bewilderment from time to time. You're not alone.**

Some of Scripture's strongest leaders found themselves in such a position. If you lead in any capacity, whether in LWML, your community, a small group, a church team, PTA, Girl Scouts, or anything else, **2 Chronicles 20:1–26** lends incredible insight into dealing with those immobilizing moments.

Take a moment to read **2 Chronicles 20:1–26**.

King Jehoshaphat became the fourth king of Judah following Solomon's death. A God-fearing man, King Jehoshaphat sent Levites and teachers of the law throughout his kingdom to teach the people God's Word. He worked to rid the land of Asherah poles and Baal worship. He relied on God.

He ascended to Judah's throne at age 35 and reigned for 25 years (**2 Chronicles 20:31**). He was powerful, respected, feared, and a strong leader. You'd think nothing would take him by surprise.

However, seventeen years into his reign, we find King Jehoshaphat in the surprising situation described in **2 Chronicles 20**. Out of nowhere and with no warning, he and his people face an overwhelming, vast enemy army. As a leader, people expected him to know the answers. A plan of attack. The path to victory. How can we learn from Jehoshaphat's example?

### What To Do When Problems Arise

*Problem: With advanced warning comes anxiety and fear.*  
(**2 Chronicles 20:2**)

Jehoshaphat knew the attack was coming. He'd been warned. It's hard enough to face such a problem when it hits out of the blue. But when we know a problem is coming, it gives us time to freak out. As you look back on your life, how have you experienced this truth?

*Solution: Gather the troops and seek the Lord.*

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:3–4**. King Jehoshaphat knew the problem far exceeded his capabilities, so he gathered the people to seek God's guidance together. When you face a problem, do you tend to look around horizontally for answers or look up vertically for guidance?

As leaders, we may fall into the deadly spiritual trap that we're supposed to have all the answers in every situation. Yet when we face an overwhelming problem or task, gathering people around us to seek God's guidance and formulate a plan based on His direction builds strong teams. Teams focused on God rally together for victory.

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:5–9**. Like a lawyer before the court, Jehoshaphat presents the facts to God. Of course, God always knows what's going on, but He wants to hear it from us. Much like parents who may know what their child did at school that day through a teacher's report, parents still want to hear it from their child in order to build that special relationship. God wants the same with us.

Jehoshaphat recounts God's faithfulness, miracles, and His promise to them of an inheritance. Have you ever noticed that when we state those wonderful facts aloud it gives us confidence? Something about hearing your voice echo off the walls reminds us of what we just said to God. Have you ever done that?

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:10–12a**. Jehoshaphat then shares with God their present situation. Why do you believe that's important?

When we share not only our joys but also our current struggles, our relationship with God remains active. We cannot rely on our faith of five years ago. We need a current, fresh walk with God to get us through each day. Is there a situation in your life right now to which you could apply these principles?

*Problem: We have no power and we don't know what to do.*

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:12**. Jehoshaphat is in a difficult position, yet he wasn't at a loss as to what action to take. Even though it may have appeared to the people that he didn't know what to do, Jehoshaphat knew that the answers resided with God alone. As a leader, that's HUGE. It takes humility to do what Jehoshaphat did. Why do you think that would be true?

Jehoshaphat could have made a decision for decision's sake, simply to make it appear he had it all together. But he didn't. He took in the big picture and had a choice: humility or annihilation? Jehoshaphat admitted his lack of knowledge, and his knees hit the floor in prayer. A stunning sight for his people, indeed. Have you ever knelt before the Lord in prayer before a large gathering? How did you feel?

*Solution: Our eyes need to rest upon God.*

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:12b**. Jehoshaphat closes his prayer to God with the most important words he could have uttered: "We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." Why are those words the most important?

With those words, Jehoshaphat admitted that he was at a loss physically, but not spiritually. His physical eyes were freaking out at a vast approaching army. His spiritual eyes saw his Source of power.

Do we tend to plod along with blinders on or look up and see our heavenly Commander-in-Chief waiting to release the heavenly host into battle on our behalf? In what situations?

Look at **2 Chronicles 20:13–15**. Before Jehoshaphat or his army took a single step toward the battlefield, they stood unarmed before the Lord and asked Him to be their armor. When was the last time you did that?

Jehoshaphat and his entire kingdom (soldiers, men, women, and children) stood united as a family. God sent a prophet to Jehoshaphat and to the people to encourage them. The battle is not ours. Did you need to hear that today? In what area of your life do you feel overwhelmed? Where are you struggling and trying not to suffocate under the pile of problems?

Read **Ephesians 6:10–18**. God gives us the armor needed to face any spiritual battle that He will ever allow in our lives. Be encouraged, friend!

The enemy's first line of attack is fear and discouragement — self doubt. If we live in a "what if" world, fear can overcome us as we think of scenarios that haven't even happened. When was the last time you did that? What were the results? God will remove our fear and encourage us. (**2 Timothy 1:7**)

Sing or say the words of the hymn "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee" (*LSB* #750); "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" (*LW* #420); "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" (*TLH* #518).