

## Small Group Study Notes

### 1 Kings 20:1-43

1. Verse 13 is the shock. The story from verse 1 to 12 is just what we would have expected. Ahab has been a foul individual and verse 1 to 12 is the justice he deserves. Here is a concrete expression of Psalm 103:8-10. What other biblical pictures do we have of such remarkable grace?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's grace?
3. Verse 21 is interesting in that it reports the remarkable victory that God had given Ahab but there is no corresponding report of Ahab's response. What do you think should be an appropriate response to being a recipient of God's kindness?
4. Ben-Hadad has a funny understanding of God, he thinks God only has power in certain places and not in others (v23 & 28). Paul was aware that Christians could end up with the same mentality, hence his words, "he who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all how will he not also along with him graciously give us all things"(Rom 8:32). What do you think are the sorts of "all things" Paul had in mind?
5. There would be those who would like the story to finish at v34, but it does not. In setting Ben-Hadad free Ahab has done wrong. In the second battle Ben-Hadad comes at Israel in the same way that Goliath did, defying God, mocking God as one who only has limited power in the hills, bent on destroying God's people (1 Sam 17:45-47). As David needed to destroy Goliath so Ahab needed to destroy Ben-Hadad. Ahab fails to realise that Ben-Hadad, even though defeated, is still his enemy and given a chance will attack again (2 Kings 6:24). Evil people are not to be a part of our inner circle. Ps 101:4, 2 Tim 3:5, Titus 3:10, how do we live out the reality of this?