

What We Could Not Carry

Afraid · Story 1

Trusting God while sharing a responsibility with limits

45-minute session · About 20 minutes to prepare

Story-based Bible discussions for older teens and adults (16+).

Distinguish a responsibility we can act on from an outcome we cannot command, and practice one specific request for help.

[Read 2 Chronicles 20:15 \(NIV\) on BibleGateway](#)

By the end of the session

- Read 2 Chronicles 20:15 within Judah's particular crisis in 20:1-22.
- Separate trusting God from predicting that a modern project will succeed.
- Compare Andre's decisions and name one task, one limit, and one request for help.

Before your group meets

- Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-22 NIV through BibleGateway. Note who speaks and who receives the assurance.
- Preview the name / share / adapt video or reader route, then compare postponement in the reader.
- Print page 4, bring pens, and choose three discussion questions. Participants may discuss Andre or pass.

A 45-minute plan

Time	Lead the group through
0-4 min	Welcome and open
4-9 min	Read Scripture in context
9-23 min	Watch or read one complete route
23-33 min	Discuss the theme
33-41 min	Compare all three choices
41-45 min	Reflect and pray

[Watch the story](#) · [Read and make choices](#) · [Open this guide online](#)

Lead the conversation

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Open with this question

What makes asking for help feel harder when other people are depending on someone?

Use the video or interactive reader. The recorded route is name / share / adapt. Allow 55 minutes for longer group reading and choice discussion. Personal sharing is optional.

Read and observe Scripture

Read [2 Chronicles 20:15 \(NIV\)](#) on BibleGateway

Jahaziel addresses Jehoshaphat and Judah during a military threat. Their prayer, attention to God and action belong to that particular account. Andre's supper is a fictional application, not a battle retelling or a prediction of success.

Who receives the assurance? What happens before and after it? Read the wider account, 2 Chronicles 20:1–22 NIV.

Discuss and connect · 10 minutes

Choose three questions. Invite observations from the Scripture passage and the story.

1. What does Andre know for certain, and what has fear added to the facts?
2. Why might delaying the update feel considerate? Who pays for the delay?
3. What does the historical setting prevent us from promising about Andre's supper?
4. Where do prayer, safety decisions, and shared work appear together in the case?
5. How can Andre receive a neighbor's disappointment without treating it as a verdict on his faith?
6. For a school project, family responsibility, or work team, what could sharing the load look like without abandoning your part?

Keep these distinctions clear

- Treat inspection and occupancy limits as real responsibilities. No branch opens the unsafe room or presents caution as a lack of faith.
- Postponing with a safe delivery plan is a legitimate option. Do not grade participants' faith by which practical plan they prefer.
- Keep the biblical military setting distinct from the modern application. Inspectors, parents, and people who disagree are not enemies to defeat.
- Continuing worry, privacy, rest and accessibility needs do not measure faith. Do not require personal disclosures.

Suggested closing prayer

God, meet us in the limits we would rather hide. Help us tell the truth, receive help, and do the work that belongs to us. Give us patience with outcomes we cannot control. Amen.

Explore the choices

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Let each person choose privately, then compare both motives and costs. Identify an honest correction or a concrete offer of help. Postponement is a legitimate safe plan; consider what each plan protects and what it costs.

Allow about two minutes per decision, then share one observation together. Choices change conversations and consequences; Christ is the foundation of the character's belonging.

1. When should Andre tell the volunteers?

Consider what each response asks Andre and his team to carry next.

Wait until he can give them a reassuring answer.

He wants to spare the team panic and avoid spreading half-formed information.

What happens: He gains a short quiet interval, but volunteers lose preparation time and are surprised by the late change. He can still correct the delay honestly.

Share the confirmed facts and name what is still unknown.

He wants the team to prepare with him even though the uncertainty feels exposing.

What happens: Concern surfaces sooner, but so do useful contacts and offers of help. Honesty does not create an immediate solution.

2. How should Andre handle the next round of decisions?

Consider what each response asks Andre and his team to carry next.

Keep every call so nobody else has to carry the pressure.

He believes personal effort is the safest way to protect others.

What happens: His attention becomes a bottleneck; fatigue makes him miss a useful venue callback. A volunteer can still offer to take over a specific task.

Ask each teammate to own one agreed part of the plan.

He accepts that care can be shared without abandoning leadership.

What happens: Different people find workable details. Andre must tolerate methods he would not have chosen, and the venue still has limits.

3. What should the team do with the smaller approved venue?

Consider what each response asks Andre and his team to carry next.

Postpone the gathering and arrange immediate meal deliveries.

They want to protect quality and accessibility instead of overcrowding a room.

What happens: Some people miss gathering together; others appreciate a clear safe plan. The next task is communicating a realistic new date.

Offer two smaller sittings and deliveries for people who cannot attend.

They want to preserve some company now while respecting the venue's limits.

What happens: The supper happens imperfectly, and extra coordination is needed. A few neighbors remain disappointed; the team listens and follows up.

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Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

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You may write about Andre, a fictional example, or your own situation. Personal sharing is optional; passing is welcome.

1. A responsibility I can act on this week is...

2. An outcome I cannot guarantee is...

3. A specific person I can ask, and the help I will request, are...

Take this question with you

What are you carrying as though the outcome depends entirely on you?

Trust can free a believer to seek help and take the next responsible step without pretending to control the result. A changed plan is not proof that God has abandoned the people involved. The original room remains closed on every route.

Within 48 hours, make one specific request for practical help and complete one task that is genuinely yours.



[Read or replay the story](#)

Scan to open the interactive story. Print page 4 for your group.