

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse:

Day 1 – Chapter 14 of “The Story”

Day 2 – 1 Kings 12

Day 3 – 1 Kings 13

Day 4 – 1 Kings 14

Day 5 – 1 Kings 15-16

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: The King Who Had It All

December 15-16

“The Story” Chapter 13; I Kings 3:5, 7-15; I Kings 11:1-4

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. What's one of the smartest things you have done?
2. As David neared the end of his life, he gave a charge to his son Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-4; "The Story," p. 176). What were his specific exhortations and how do these words reflect what David had learned from his personal choices in life?
3. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and engaged him in the "If you could have anything you want" conversation (1 Kings 3:5-14; "The Story," pp. 176-177). What did Solomon ask for and what did he refrain from asking for? What can we learn about prayer from this account in Solomon's life?
4. As Solomon's wisdom grew, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write and collect wise sayings. According to Proverbs 1:1-7 ("The Story," p. 179), what is the purpose and value of the proverbs and why are they needed just as much today as they were in ancient times?
5. "The Story" (pp. 179-183) includes many examples of proverbs. Respond to one of the questions below about this collection of wise sayings:
 - What do they teach us about fearing God?
 - What do they teach us about God-honoring relationships?
 - What do they teach us about how to handle our finances wisely?
 - What do they teach us about how we use our words?
6. Using what you have learned about Israel's history in previous chapters of "The Story," why did Solomon make the dedication of the temple such a big event? What would it have been like to experience it firsthand?
7. As the temple was dedicated, Solomon prayed and spoke to the people of Israel (1 Kings 8:22, "The Story," pp. 186-188). What do his words teach us about God? What does he ask for himself and for the people, and how can his prayer inform the way we speak with God?
8. After Solomon's prayer and charge to the people, God spoke (1 Kings 9:1-9; "The Story," pp. 188-189). What promises did God give the people? How did these promises give both hope and a sober awareness of their need to follow God closely?
9. At the end of his life, the wise King Solomon did some very foolish things (1 Kings 11:1-13, "The Story," pp. 191-192). What did he do and what were some of the consequences? How can we avoid finishing poorly?

Close in prayer.



Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse:

Don't be wise in your own eyes. Have respect for the Lord. Proverbs 3:7

1. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered to give him anything he asked for. If God gave you the same offer, what would you ask for?
2. Solomon asked for wisdom, so he could be a good king. Do you think that was a good request?
3. God liked Solomon's answer so much that he gave him wisdom, fame, and money. What's the best reward you've received for a good answer?
4. If you could ask your parents to give you one thing, what would it be?

Family Activity: God blessed Solomon with such vast riches that the Bible says silver had little value in Solomon's kingdom and that the king drank out of a gold goblet. So when Solomon built God's temple, he spared no expense.

The temple took seven years to complete. It was one of the most majestic structures of the day. Nearly 500 years after the Israelites left Egypt, God's temple was complete.

Take a digital video tour of the temple by going to YouTube. Read 1 Kings 6 as you watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFnWTz-7IOE.

1. Did anything stand out to you in the video?
2. Is there any part of the description of the temple that seems especially majestic?
3. How does Solomon's temple compare to your church?
4. Does God's presence still fill buildings today? (Look at Matthew 18:20 for an answer.)

Pray together: Dear God, we thank you for the stories of the Bible that tell us so many things about how you would have us live. Give us the strength and courage to ask for wisdom and faith instead of riches, power and fame. Thank you for your faithful love that continues forever. Amen.



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