



Lifegroup Study Guide Life of Solomon

Ice Breaker – Share an experience when you started something well but finished poorly. Share an experience when you started something poorly but finished well.

Introduction

Solomon was the son of David who would inherit the throne from his father. Solomon had a good mind and certainly in the beginning of his reign was a man of sincere purpose and of a religious spirit. He assumed direction of the nation at a time of its greatest material prosperity and splendor. Toward the end of his reign, he had lost his spirit of modesty and humility and had become conceited, haughty, and despotic. Riches and luxury had enslaved him and left him restless and unsatisfied. The great sin of Solomon was his loss of devotion to God. Solomon's kingdom, while appearing outwardly as unified and strong, was, in reality, marred with weaknesses that were to issue in the fatal division of the kingdom after Solomon's death.

A Strong Start – Read 1 Kings 2:1-4, 3:5-14

How would you describe the early days of Solomon's reign?

When God asked Solomon what he wanted, he asked for wisdom! If God were to ask you that same question, how would you respond?

What we ask for reveals what's really going on at the deepest level in our hearts. What does this reveal to us about the heart of this young king? What does this reveal about us?

Solomon's Greatest Accomplishment – Read 1 Kings 6:1-2, 7:51, 8:22-24

Solomon went to work building God's temple. He set his mind to accomplishing God's will and did it. What is God asking you to do relative to building His kingdom here on earth? Are you currently engaged in the Great Commission? See Matthew 28:18-20

A Poor Finish – Read 1 Kings 11:1-6

Solomon's reign started with great promise. Unfortunately he turned away from God. In verse four we read, "His heart was not wholly devoted to God." The end result would be a divided nation that would lose its influence in the world.

What is keeping you from being wholly devoted to God? Consider the consequences of lukewarm faith. How might our lukewarm faith affect our spheres of influence? How might our spiritual apathy impact the people that God has placed into our lives?

Conclusion

Solomon started his reign with a humble mindset and with a strong faith in God. Unfortunately he did not finish strong. He allowed his successes and the pleasures of this world to consume his life to the point where he wrote, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly Meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" No matter where you are on your faith journey, resolve to finish strong! Instead let us be inspired by the words of the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Pray for each other to fight the good fight and to finish strong!