Bible Stories for Adults
Solomon's Wisdom
2 Samuel 19 - 1 Kings 4

Opening

Gathering: How do you know if you are following God's wisdom or your own?

Today's Focus: David followed God's wisdom to name a successor and God filled Solomon with His wisdom.

Key Verses: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7
If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God,…and it will be given him. James 1:5

Opening Prayer

Lesson

David's Would-Be Successors (2 Samuel 1-18)

Who were David's first six sons and heirs apparent to the throne?
2 Samuel 3:2-5
What other sons did David have after he moved to Jerusalem?
2 Samuel 5:13-16
Were these many wives and concubines blessing from God for the king?
Deuteronomy 17:16-17 (14-20)

What happened to Amnon, the oldest?
2 Samuel 13:28-29,32
What happened to Absalom, the next in line (assuming Kileab had died)?
2 Samuel 18:9, 14-15

Take Me Back (2 Samuel 19)

Why didn't David return to Jerusalem immediately after Absalom died?
2 Samuel 19:9-10
How did David help make something happen?
2 Samuel 19:11, 14
Did this help restore peace to the nation?
2 Samuel 19:41, 43

King Sheba? (2 Samuel 20)

How did this argument escalate?
2 Samuel 20:1-2
How did David respond to this in a way that would win over Absalom's supporters?
2 Samuel 20:4, 6 (4-7)
What happened when Amasa and the troops he recruited joined up with David's permanent army?
2 Samuel 20:9-10 (8-14)
Was Joab and the army able to catch up with Sheba?
2 Samuel 20:15
What happened?
2 Samuel 20:16, 19-22 (16-26)
The Rest of David  (2 Samuel 19-24)

2 Samuel 19  -  David returns to Jerusalem, Reacts to Shimei, Mephibosheth & Barzillai
2 Samuel 20  -  Joab kills Amasa, Sheba rebels against David and is killed
2 Samuel 21  -  David turns 2 sons and 5 grandsons of Saul to Gibeonites for their revenge
2 Samuel 22  -  Psalm 18
2 Samuel 23  -  David’s Mighty Men
2 Samuel 24  -  David orders a military census and causes a 3-day plague

Will The Real King Please Stand Up  (1 Kings 1:1-10)

Who decided it was time to become king when David grew old?
1 Kings 1:1, 5  (1-5)

Who had taken this same approach to present himself as the king?
2 Samuel 15:1

Did David stop Adonijah before things got out of hand?
1 Kings 1:6

What support did Adonijah acquire for his kingship?
1 Kings 1:7-10

Where did Adonijah get the idea to gather VIPs and offer a sacrifice to begin his kingship?
2 Samuel 15:11-12

David's God-Appointed Successor  (1 Kings 1:11-53)

Who had God appointed to be David's successor?
1 Chronicles 22:7-10

Who remembered God's appointment and devised a plan to make Solomon king?
1 Kings 1:11, 13-14  (11-27)

Did David remember God's appointment and his promise to Bathsheba?
1 Kings 1:29-30, 33-35, 39  (28-40)

How did Adonijah respond to what had happened?
1 Kings 1:41-43, 49-51  (41-51)

How did Solomon respond to Adonijah's plea?
1 Kings 1:52-53

Solomon's Throne is Established  (1 Kings 2)

What request did Adonijah make that showed his intentions?
1 Kings 2:10, 13, 17  (10-18)

Who was Abishag?
1 Kings 1:1-4

What was evil about Adonijah's request?
2 Samuel 16:20-22

How did Solomon respond to the request?
1 Kings 2:22, 25  (19-25)

How did Solomon treat Abiathar, the priest who had sided with Adonijah?
1 Kings 2:26-27

What did Joab do when he heard what happened to Adonijah?
1 Kings 2:28

How did Solomon respond to Joab's action?
1 Kings 2:31-35  (29-35)
Shim Shimei (1 Kings 2:36-46)

What other left-over business had David left with Solomon?
1 Kings 2:5-9 (see 2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:18-23)
Did Solomon call for Shimei's death?
1 Kings 2:36-38
How did Shimei change his own situation?
1 Kings 2:39-42 (39-45)
How did Solomon handle this, and what was the result of Solomon's actions in 1 Kings 2?
1 Kings 2:46

Solomon's Faithfulness (1 Kings 3:3-4)

What were David's last words to Solomon before he died?
1 Kings 2:1-4
How did Solomon attempt to follow David's guidance and example?
1 Kings 3:3-4
What was wrong about Solomon offering sacrifices on the high places?
Numbers 33:51-52
Why was Gibeon the most important high place?
1 Chronicles 21:29

Solomon's Dream (1 Kings 3:5-15)

What did Solomon dream about at Gibeon?
1 Kings 3:5, 7-9
Did God grant his wish?
1 Kings 3:10-15

Solomon Uses His Gift (1 Kings 3:16-28)

What was Solomon's first occasion to use his wisdom?
1 Kings 3:16-22
How did Solomon resolve this impossible dilemma?
1 Kings 3:24-27
What did people think about Solomon's unorthodox action?
1 Kings 3:28

Solomon's Wisdom (1 Kings 4)

How extensive was the wisdom with which God blessed Solomon?
1 Kings 4:29-30
What were some examples of Solomon's great wisdom?
1 Kings 4:32-34

According to Solomon, how valuable is wisdom?
Proverbs 3:13-18
Where do wisdom and knowledge come from?
Proverbs 9:10
What should you do if you feel you are lacking wisdom?
James 1:5
Solomon’s Fame  (1 Kings 10)

- How far did word of Solomon's wisdom spread?
  1 Kings 10:1
- Was Solomon able to answer the queen's hard questions?
  1 Kings 10:3, 6-7
- How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of Blessed to be a Blessing?
  1 Kings 10:8-9

Solomon’s Wealth  (1 Kings 10)

- What gifts did the Queen of Sheba give to Solomon?
  1 Kings 10:10
- What was Solomon's annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?
  1 Kings 10:14-15
- How extravagant did things become for Solomon?
  1 Kings 10:21, 27 (16-29)
- How much of a trader and merchant was Solomon?
  1 Kings 9:26-28
  1 Kings 10:22
  1 Kings 10:28-29
- How else did Solomon accumulate wealth?
  1 Kings 10:23-25

Solomon’s Peace  (1 Kings 4:20-28)

- How peaceful was life during Solomon's reign?
  1 Kings 4:24-25
- What promises Abraham receive from God after spending most of his life childless and as a nomad?
  Genesis 22:17-18
- Did God tell Abraham how much land He would give to his descendants?
  Genesis 15:18
- How much of these promises were fulfilled under Solomon?
  1 Kings 4:20-21

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I become jealous for not being part of something good done by someone else?
2. Do I imitate the wise & righteous, or do I follow the foolish & wicked?
   (1 Kings 1:5-10; 2:13-25; Matthew 23:3; John 13:1-17; Hebrews 13:7)
3. When have I shown mercy to someone who didn't deserve it?
4. When has God shown mercy to me when I didn't deserve it?
   (1 Kings 3:5-15; Lamentations 3:22-23; Daniel 9:9; Luke 1:50)
5. How has God's wisdom worked in me?
   (1 Kings 3:16-28; 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:4; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16; Ephesians 3:7-11)