

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)

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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)

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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

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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 Samuel 19:41-43; John 21:18-23, Romans 11:11-14; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 13:4; Galatians 5:26)
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?
(2 Samuel 19:16-23; 1 Kings 2:8-9, 26; Matthew 5:7; 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-36)
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)