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 = Names on board - Amnon oldest, Kileab thought dead

What other sons did David have after he moved to Jerusalem?
2 Samuel 5:13-16 = Names on board in order, no comment now

Were these many wives and concubines blessing from God for the king?
Deuteronomy 17:16-17 (14-20) = No, God commanded the king to have one wife

What happened to Amnon, the oldest?
2 Samuel 13:28-29,32 = Absalom had Amnon murdered for raping his sister

What happened to Absalom, the next in line (assuming Kileab had died)?
2 Samuel 18:9, 14-15 = Hung with head caught in tree, Joab killed him after coup attempt

Take Me Back  (2 Samuel 19)

Why didn't David return to Jerusalem immediately after Absalom died?
2 Samuel 19:9-10 = The nation couldn't decide whether to invite him back or not

How did David help make something happen?  = Put Amasa (Absalom's general) in charge of his army
2 Samuel 19:11, 14 = He appealed to his own tribe of Judah to take the initiative

Did this help restore peace to the nation?
2 Samuel 19:41, 43 = No, the other tribes got jealous and angry at being excluded

King Sheba?  (2 Samuel 20)

How did this argument escalate?
2 Samuel 20:1-2 = Sheba turned the northern tribes away from David

How did David respond to this in a way that would win over Absalom's supporters?
2 Samuel 20:4, 6 (4-7) = Sent Amasa, Absalom's commander, to recruit troops to pursue Sheba

What happened when Amasa and the troops he recruited joined up with David's permanent army?
2 Samuel 20:9-10 (8-14) = Joab killed him because he was in line for Joab's job

Was Joab and the army able to catch up with Sheba?  = ABM was far north, past Dan
2 Samuel 20:15 = Yes, they besieged a city where Sheba and his recruits sought refuge

What happened?
2 Samuel 20:16, 19-22 (16-26) = A woman stopped destruction of city by having Sheba killed
The Rest of David (2 Samuel 19-24)

2 Samuel 19 - David returns to Jerusalem, Reacts to Shimei, Mephibosheth & Barzillai = All gracious
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 = The Three and The Thirty
2 Samuel 24 - David orders a military census and causes a 3-day plague = Didn’t trust God

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

Who decided it was time to become king when David grew old? = Next in line, see list
1 Kings 1:1, 5 (1-5) = Adonijah - Got a chariot with 50 runners, around 35 yrs old (David ~70)
Who had taken this same approach to present himself as the king?
2 Samuel 15:1 = Absalom
Did David stop Adonijah before things got out of hand?
1 Kings 1:6 = No, David never interfered - Poor job of disciplining his sons
What support did Adonijah acquire for his kingship?
1 Kings 1:7-10 = Joab, army, high priest, brothers, officials; Not 2nd priest or guard
Where did Adonijah get the idea to gather VIPs and offer a sacrifice to begin his kingship?
2 Samuel 15:11-12 = Absalom (Adonijah not real creative)

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

Who had God appointed to be David's successor? = Note lineage on board
1 Chronicles 22:7-10 = Solomon (Shelomoh means peaceable in Hebrew)
Who remembered God's appointment and devised a plan to make Solomon king?
1 Kings 1:11, 13-14 (11-27) = Nathan the prophet; Instructed Bathsheba
Did David remember God's appointment and his promise to Bathsheba?
1 Kings 1:29-30, 33-35, 39 (28-40) = Yes, transferred his reign the same day
How did Adonijah respond to what had happened?
1 Kings 1:41-43, 49-51 (41-51) = Took hold of altar's horns for God's protection
How did Solomon respond to Adonijah's plea?
1 Kings 1:52-53 = Said Adonijah's actions will determine his fate

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) = Asked to marry Abishag the Shunammite
Who was Abishag?
1 Kings 1:1-4 = Virgin attendant to David in last years
What was evil about Adonijah's request?
2 Samuel 16:20-22 = Taking David's concubine lays claim to kingdom
How did Solomon respond to the request?
1 Kings 2:22, 25 (19-25) = He had Adonijah killed

How did Solomon treat Abiathar, the priest who had sided with Adonijah?
1 Kings 2:26-27 = Removed him from priesthood, but didn't kill him
What did Joab do when he heard what happened to Adonijah?
1 Kings 2:28 = Took hold of altar's horns for God's protection
How did Solomon respond to Joab's action?
1 Kings 2:31-35 (29-35) = Had him killed and replaced him with Benaiah
Shem 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) = Deal with Joab & Shimei (had cursed David)

Did Solomon call for Shimei’s death?
1 Kings 2:36-38 = No, he allowed him to live in peace in Jerusalem

How did Shimei change his own situation?
1 Kings 2:39-42 (39-45) = Left Jerusalem in violation of Solomon’s order & his own agreement

How did Solomon handle this, and what was the result of Solomon’s actions in 1 Kings 2?
1 Kings 2:46 = Had Shimei killed; The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands

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

What were David’s last words to Solomon before he died?
1 Kings 2:1-4 = Follow the Lord & He will bless you & descendants

How did Solomon attempt to follow David’s guidance and example?
1 Kings 3:3-4 = Walked in David’s statutes, offered many sacrifices

What was wrong about Solomon offering sacrifices on the high places?
Numbers 33:51-52 = They were sites where Canaanites worshipped Baal

Why was Gibeon the most important high place?
1 Chronicles 21:29 = Tabernacle & altar from Moses were kept there

Solomon’s Dream (1 Kings 3:5-15)

What did Solomon dream about at Gibeon? = Solomon probably around 20 years old
1 Kings 3:5, 7-9 = God gave him one request, he asked for wisdom

Did God grant his wish? = Write on board - Solomon left high place and worshipped in Jerusalem
1 Kings 3:10-15 = Gave him wisdom, fame, wealth, peace & long life

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

What was Solomon’s first occasion to use his wisdom?
1 Kings 3:16-22 = Two mothers argued over whose was the living baby

How did Solomon resolve this impossible dilemma?
1 Kings 3:24-27 = Offered to cut baby in half to get women’s responses

What did people think about Solomon’s unorthodox action?
1 Kings 3:28 = They held the king in awe…he had wisdom from God

Solomon’s Wisdom (1 Kings 4)

How extensive was the wisdom with which God blessed Solomon?
1 Kings 4:29-30 = Wiser than all others, understanding…as sand on the seashore

What were some examples of Solomon’s great wisdom?
1 Kings 4:32-34 = 3000 proverbs, 1005 songs, described science

According to Solomon, how valuable is wisdom? = List on board
Proverbs 3:13-18 = Wisdom: profitable, precious, long life, honor, peaceful, invigorating, blessed

Where do wisdom and knowledge come from?
Proverbs 9:10 = Fear the Lord

What should you do if you feel you are lacking wisdom?
James 1:5 = Ask God for wisdom and He will give generously

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Solomon’s Fame (1 Kings 10)

How far did word of Solomon's wisdom spread?
1 Kings 10:1 = Queen of Sheba heard (Sheba at southern tip of Arabia, 1200 mi. away)

Was Solomon able to answer the queen's hard questions?
1 Kings 10:3, 6-7 = He proved to be wiser than she expected

How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of Blessed to be a Blessing?
1 Kings 10:8-9 = Made others happy; Brought praise to God from other nations

Solomon’s Wealth (1 Kings 10)

What gifts did the Queen of Sheba give to Solomon?
1 Kings 10:10 = 4.5 tons of gold, jewels & more spices than ever imported

What was Solomon’s annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?
1 Kings 10:14-15 = 25 tons

How extravagant did things become for Solomon?
1 Kings 10:21, 27 (16-29) = Goblets & household articles were gold, silver was commonplace

How much of a trader and merchant was Solomon?
1 Kings 9:26-28 = Fleet of ships on Red Sea sailed to Ophir (southern end of Red Sea)
1 Kings 10:22 = Fleet of ships in Mediterranean Sea sailed to Tarshish (Spain)
1 Kings 10:28-29 = Land-based trade in Asia, Egypt & Arabia

How else did Solomon accumulate wealth?
1 Kings 10:23-25 = Received many visitors to hear his wisdom, each brought a gift

Solomon’s Peace (1 Kings 4:20-28)

How peaceful was life during Solomon's reign?
1 Kings 4:24-25 = All happy & safe under his own vine & fig tree (chicken in every pot)

What promises Abraham receive from God after spending most of his life childless and as a nomad?
Genesis 22:17-18 = Descendants like sand on the seashore, extensive land, blessings

Did God tell Abraham how much land He would give to his descendants?
Genesis 15:18 = From river (wadi) of Egypt to the great Euphrates River

How much of these promises were fulfilled under Solomon?
1 Kings 4:20-21 = All of them - many descendants, blessed, full territory

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)