

Solomon Turns From The Lord

1 Kings 11:1-13, 41-43

MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 11:9

“So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Shaving cream (non-sticky) and paper towels.

As many “Time Stealer” templates as the number of children in your class and pencils.

Two different colors of construction paper (one 3” x 8 1/2“ rectangle of each color for each child), scissors, glue and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

How Sin Spreads!

The object is to show how sin can spread and affect others. It also shows how we can be affected by other people’s sin. For this activity you will need some shaving cream (non-sticky) and some paper towels. *Please check with children’s ministry supervisors when considering this activity.*

Split the class into two groups. Have the groups form two lines. For cleanliness, you will want to place a line of paper towels between the lines of children (Note: it would be best to do this activity on a non-carpeted surface.) Put a small amount of shaving cream into the palm of the hand of the first person in one of the groups. Have that person shake hands with the person across from them. Have it continue down the line until the last person has had their hand shaken. Explain to the children that this is not to be a “shaving cream” fight, so they will need to only shake hands (not try to get shaving cream on one another).

Next, go to the second team and put a small amount of shaving cream into the first person's hand. But this time, you will wipe off the shaving cream with a paper towel. Next have this team go down the line and shake hands. No shaving cream should be transferred between children. Give paper towels to the children who have shaving cream on their hands and have them wipe it off.

Gather the children together and ask them some questions about what they observed. Tell them that the shaving cream represents sin. What happens when we do not do anything about our sin (confess it, etc)? How can our sin affect others (like the shaving cream passing down)? How does being around someone who is sinning affect us (the person in line who comes into contact with the person having shaving cream)? For the second group, what was done differently? Was anyone affected by the sin? We will learn in today's story that King Solomon turned away from the Lord. At first he was a very good king, but he was affected by the sin of his wives. We need to be careful in our relationships. Remember what 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be deceived: 'evil company corrupts good habits.'" **Stay close to the Lord.**

LESSON TIME!

We have been studying about the time King Solomon reigned over Israel. In our last studies, King Solomon was walking in the ways of his father, King David and in the ways of the Lord. Solomon was given wisdom from God, and He used that wisdom to help others. He was given the privilege of building the glorious temple for the Lord. God greatly blessed Solomon. His wisdom, wealth, and worship caused the nations around him to take notice of God's blessing upon those who served the Lord.

But as King Solomon got older, he married many different women from many different nations. They worshipped foreign gods—the gods of their homelands. As he spent more time with them, he began to spend less time with God. God had warned his people

about having relationships with those who worship other gods. But Solomon did not listen to those warnings. Solomon's heart began to be drawn away from the Lord and towards these false gods.

1 KINGS 11:1-4

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites;

from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

Seven hundred wives of royal birth! Three hundred concubines! Wow, that is a lot of wives! Although Solomon was given great wisdom in making decisions, he did make some mistakes. And, this was a big mistake!

In ancient times, it was accepted practice for people to have more than one wife. God allowed it, but he never approved of it or recommended it. In fact, kings were commanded in the Bible not to have a lot of wives (see Deuteronomy 17:14-17), for, "Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." But Solomon disobeyed, ignoring God's warning. And just as God had warned,

Solomon's many wives turned his heart away from serving the Lord.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Solomon had many wives was to make peace with the nations around Israel. In a previous lesson, we learned that King Solomon had peace with all of the nations around him. In Bible times, this could be arranged by the king marrying the wives of the families of powerful men in other nations. Since they were now related in marriage and their daughters resided in the King's country, the nations would be less likely to attack.

In verse two, we read that Solomon "clung to these in love..." This intense devotion to his wives began to supersede His devotion to God, for we read, "his wives turned away his heart." How did they turn his heart away? Consider the following:

1. His wives did not worship the true God as did Solomon—they were strong in their own religious beliefs and practices brought from their own countries.
2. King Solomon may have slowly weakened in His own faith by neglecting to spend time with the true God.
3. Solomon may have sought to please his wives by joining in their religious meetings and worship.

Because Solomon disobeyed the Lord, he set himself up for problems. God has reasons why he tells us what to do in His Word. He is not trying to take away our fun or be mean to us. God knows what is best. If He says that we should or should not do something, it is because He loves us and does not want to see us hurt. **Stay close to the Lord.**

1 KINGS 11:5-8

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

There are a lot of other gods spoken of in the Scriptures. There are a lot of ways to worship other gods. Who are these other gods that Solomon began to worship? These verses talk about three. And God called the worship of them, “doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.”

These three gods, Chemosh, Molech, and Ashtoreth were called detestable and vile. These are very strong words. Detestable means to consider abominable, worthy of curses, to hate with intensity; vile is morally base, loathsome, shamefully wicked, sinful, corrupt, filthy or disgusting. These are certainly things that we would want to stay away from!

The Bible talks about what the practices were of these religions. Chemosh means “the destroyer:” mentioned in Jeremiah 48, Numbers 21, and 2 Kings 23. Molech is mentioned in Lev. 20, Amos 5:26, and in other places too. It’s possible these were two names for the same god. In the worship of these gods people would do terrible, mean, and sinful things.

The third god mentioned is Ashtoreth, worshipped as the moon goddess. The Lord God wanted all the people to worship Him as the Creator of the moon, stars, and heavens. King Solomon let his wives worship the creation itself.

How sad that King Solomon did not remember the words of Deuteronomy 17:18-20 and that he did not use his wisdom to worship God at the end of his life.

King Solomon began his reign fully devoted to God but sadly, he allowed his heart to turn away from the one true God and be drawn after foreign gods. We can learn a valuable lesson from King Solomon. We need to make sure that our hearts remain close to the Lord. We need to spend time with Him every day. We also need to be careful about the friends we choose; if our friends do not love the Lord, they may cause our hearts to be drawn away. **Stay close to the Lord.**

1 KINGS 11:9-13

So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.

Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

"Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

"However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

As we looked at earlier, the Lord gives certain instructions for a king in Israel (Deuteronomy 17:16-20). King Solomon violated and turned away from these commands. If we compromise and become comfortable with even a little bit of sin in our lives, it can grow and our hearts can become hardened. Solomon's heart became so hard that even when the Lord spoke to him, he would not turn from his sin.

Verse 11 says, "Because you have done this" or "since this is your attitude." Solomon had a choice: to be fully devoted to God or not. We make choices every morning, afternoon, and evening about whether to spend time with the Lord or spend time with other things. It was King Solomon's choices and his attitude that led his heart astray every bit as much as it was his wives. **Stay close to the Lord.**

Time Stealers

This activity will give the children a way to help them see how they spend their time and ways they can use it to bring glory to the Lord. You can either make copies of the enclosed chart for each child or draw a chart on the board for the whole class to participate (this would probably be best for the younger children).

Give the children an opportunity to fill out the squares by indicating how much time is spent in each category. If you are doing it as a class, just get a general amount of time spent in each. Some of the younger children may have difficulty telling time. You may have to guide them through by suggesting possible times. Allow the children enough time to finish, then collect the sheets.

After the children have finished, discuss how much time is spent in various activities compared to how much time is spent with the Lord. Encourage the children to look for opportunities to spend more time with the Lord. Solomon had married many wives who worshipped foreign gods; he also had much wealth. How do you think his wives and wealth could have taken away from his time and devotion to the Lord?

Verse 12 says, “...for the sake of David...” What a compassionate God we have. Although King Solomon was not walking wholeheartedly with the Lord, He showed mercy to Solomon because of His promise to David. God is faithful and will honor his promises. Solomon’s kingdom would not be torn from him; however, it would be from his son.

Solomon’s son and many of the kings that followed sinned against the Lord. God would judge the sins of Israel. The kingdom of Israel would never again be as great as in the days of Solomon. Yet God still had special plans for His people; He would fulfill His promise-- a son of David would sit on the throne forever. Jesus, born in the line of King David’s family, would one day fulfill this promise.

1 KINGS 11:41-43

Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

King Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for 40 years. Since it began well, with a people and their king following the Lord, it ushered in a time of great blessing—the greatest in the history of Israel. The knowledge of the Lord flourished as evidenced by the writings of Solomon, especially the book of Proverbs.

What began well, sadly, did not end well. As we continued to study the reign of Solomon, we witnessed the departure of a once devoted king from his God; and as a result, we saw a nation set on a course of destruction. The choices we make do have consequences.

Let us choose to remain fully devoted to God *all* the days of our lives. May we choose to spend time with our Lord every day, even when we are older and may think that we have learned as much as we need. As we wake up every morning we need to freshly commit ourselves to serving the Lord. Let us not allow ourselves to be drawn away by others who do not follow God or to be influenced by the pressures of this world and things so that we drift away to serve other gods—power, pleasure, and wealth. **Stay close to the Lord.**

God's Word Woven into Our Heart

You will need two different colors of construction paper (one 3 x 8 1/2" rectangle of each color for each child), scissors, glue and markers. Place the two rectangles together and fold in 1/2. Hold both pieces together and on the "non-folded" end cut a rounded arch. The top of the arch should be centered and curve equally on both sides. On the "folded" sides make two cuts (slits) approximately 1" apart and going up towards the arch approximately 4". Cut where the fold is on ONE piece only.

Open the piece that has NOT been cut. With the remaining two pieces weave them into the “non-cut” piece next to each other with the arches on top. You should have an arch on each side and two arches on top with a fold still in the middle. When you close the fold it will make a woven heart. Have the children (or you can help) write out Psalm 119:11 with a marker. They can then write their names on them.

Remind the children how important it is to have God’s Word intertwined with our heart. His Word will help us to keep from sinning.



PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to always remain close to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us to never grow hardened towards Him but to remain faithful to follow His ways. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

