

The Story Adult Study Guide

Chapter 13: “The King Who Had It All”



Key Events: Solomon becomes king after David’s death, Solomon’s reign, Solomon’s wisdom literature, the building of the temple, Solomon strays

Key Characters: Solomon (see page 490 for a description)

Bible Reference for this Chapter: 1 Kings 1-8, 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Proverbs 1-3, 6, 20-21

Goals: Beware of the _____ temperature.
Cling to the _____ Know you are _____

1. Define the term *wisdom*. What evidence from the life of Solomon and contemporary culture demonstrates that wisdom and morality go hand in hand?
2. *The Story* includes a number of Solomon’s proverbs on pages 179-183. Reread together 179-180--- Identify a proverb or two that strikes you today. Why?
3. Scan through the rest of them. What do these wise sayings teach us about . . .
 - our priorities?
 - our relationships?
 - the words we speak?
 - managing possessions and finances?
4. Solomon accumulated an incredible amount of riches. When does a person reach the point of having too much earthly wealth?

5. King Saul ruled 42 years, and Kings David and Solomon each ruled 40 years. Their reigns were marked with successful beginnings, but later on things went downhill. Describe how slow, incremental changes can be spiritually dangerous in the lives of Christians.

6. How does chapter 13 demonstrate that God is true to his word – he means what he says and follows through with his promises and directives?

7. Other thoughts and comments? Please share messages of personal comfort, hope, and encouragement you received from chapter 13.

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Study Guide Helps

1. Wisdom is often defined as “applied knowledge” and involves the ability to judge/discern what is true, right, and lasting. Wisdom applies an understanding about people, situations, and cause-and-effect relationships in order to determine a right and proper course of action. Morality (right behavior) is an essential characteristic of wisdom. The Bible describes true wisdom as *doing what is right and just and fair* (Proverbs 1:3), and it is based on God’s Word and his design and purpose = *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*. (Proverbs 1:7) God created mankind to exist under his established blueprint regarding marriage, the family, the way we love and serve others, our priorities in life, etc. When people morally live by God’s blueprint they are blessed; when people live apart from his ways they suffer the consequences and negatively affect others. Cite examples from Solomon’s life and the way people live today that demonstrate the blessings of moral and ethical living and the consequences of sinful lifestyles.

2. Apply the proverbs on pages 179-183 to these subjects. Priorities = God and his Word come first in our lives; compelled by Christ we should *trust in the Lord with all your heart*. (Proverbs 3:5) Relationships = honor and abide by God’s design for marriage and family; love and respect others; avoid strife and quarreling; do not seek vengeance. Words we speak = guard what we say; speak well of others; do not lie, gossip, or curse. Managing possessions/finances = honor God with our wealth and support Christ’s kingdom work with our first fruits; conduct financial affairs honestly; manage wealth and possessions wisely and faithfully.

3. From a spiritual standpoint, the determining factor is not the amount of wealth, but a person’s attitude and priorities about the wealth (what’s in the heart). The Bible is clear that heavenly treasures are of greatest value and comprise our top priority (Matthew 6:19-24). We are on a sinful and destructive path whenever our desire for earthly treasures takes away from our relationship with Christ. God’s Word warns of the dangers of discontentment, greed, and the desire to get rich in 1 Timothy 6:6-10: *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* (verse 10)

4. God’s power and wisdom supported Saul, David, and Solomon in the early years of their reigns, and they enjoyed success as they abided by God’s instructions and remained faithful to him. They spiritually and politically suffered the consequences when they drifted away from God over time. The devil uses a slow subtle approach to inch Christians away from God and peck away at our foundation in Christ. Through barely perceptible changes, we are led to slowly surrender our Christian values and priorities. Regular worship and time in God’s Word get exchanged with busy schedules. God-pleasing attitudes and habits gradually get replaced with a worldly mindset and lifestyle. Unfortunately, we see the slow course of spiritual straying with people in our own churches and families. Over time, people become entrenched in their lives apart from the Lord. God calls us to reach out to the straying and strayed.

5. God demonstrated his faithfulness and accountability in his words to Solomon. Read: 1) the two paragraphs starting on the bottom of page 188 “As for you, if you walk . . .” to the middle of page 189 “that is why he brought all this disaster on them;” 2) the final paragraph on page 192 “The Lord became angry with Solomon . . .” God remembered every word he spoke and held true to his promises and admonitions.

6. Answers will vary. Consider/discuss elements of chapter 13 that relate to our daily walk of faith.

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