

Solomon's Sin Divided the Kingdom (1 Kings 10–12)



Dear families,

When you read the description of Solomon's wealth in 1 Kings 10, it is hard not to have some sense of jealousy about the amount of money and power he had amassed. Solomon is described as having 25 tons of gold come into his possession every year as only a portion of his annual increase of wealth.

Solomon made everything imaginable out of gold and ivory. In fact, he had so much gold that silver lost its value in his kingdom because it was so accessible to the people. He was a man who had anything and everything that one could ever want.

Who wouldn't want all that Solomon had? Solomon had anything a person could ever want in terms of both possessions and wisdom. But after his reign of 40 years came to an end, Solomon's life ended too. He was buried alongside his ancestors and carried none of his riches with him.

Psalms 50:10 says, "Every animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills." The currency of the days of Asaph, writer of Psalm 50, was animals. And for God to describe Himself as the owner of the livestock roaming on the earth was for God to say that He owns it all. In the same way that the cattle on a thousand hills represents unimaginable wealth, we could never calculate the wealth and richness of God.

When we consider the desirable wealth of Solomon, we ought to be reminded of the unimaginable wealth of God. He is a good God who doesn't gather for Himself and leave the leftovers to His children; rather, God gives to His children out of His abundance that we too might enjoy His wealth of grace and mercy both now and in eternity.

If you're looking for wealth, look no further than the cross. The cross is where we find the evidence of God's gracious hand providing for His children and where we look to find access to His generous heart for eternity.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Jesus is a perfect King who brings people together.
- **Younger Preschool:** Solomon sinned, and Israel was divided into two kingdoms. God's people needed a perfect king. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.
- **Older Preschool:** Solomon sinned, and Israel was divided into two kingdoms. God's people needed a perfect king. God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be King. Jesus is better than Solomon. Jesus is a perfect King who brings God's people together.
- **Kids:** King Solomon's sin led to the division of the kingdom. God's people needed a better king. Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.
- **Older Preschool:** What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.
- **Kids:** What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** The Lord is a kind and loving God. Exodus 34:6

- **Younger Preschool:** The Lord is a kind and loving God. Exodus 34:6
- **Older Preschool:** The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth. Exodus 34:6
- **Kids:** The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. Exodus 34:6-7

**** Next week:** God Is Good to Give Mercy (Luke 18)