

King Solomon wisely asks for wisdom

Solomon builds the temple

Solomon's proverbial pot of lukewarm water

Solomon's conclusion in the book of Ecclesiastes

Questions for discussion:

1. Our culture can be a little like the kettle and we can become the frogs plopped into the water...if we are not careful. Name some examples of dangerous and incremental changes happening around us that we can fail to notice. What can we do to wake up, notice, and resist these changes?
2. As David neared the end of his life, he gave a charge to his son, Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-4). What were his specific exhortations and how do these words reflect what David had learned from his personal choices in life?
3. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and engaged him in the "if you could have anything you want" conversation (1 Kings 3:5-14). What did Solomon ask for and what did he refrain from asking for? What can we learn about prayer from this account in Solomon's life?
4. As Solomon's wisdom grew, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write and collect wise sayings. According to Proverbs 1:1-7, what is the purpose and the value of the proverbs and why are they needed just as much today as they were in ancient times?
5. The Story (p.179-183) includes many examples of proverbs.
 - What do they teach us about *fearing God*?
 - What do they teach us about *God-honoring relationships*?
 - What do they teach us about *how to handle our finances wisely*?
 - What do they teach us about *how to use our words*?
6. As the temple was dedicated, Solomon prayed and spoke to the people of Israel (1 Kings 8:22-61). What do his words teach us about God? What does he ask for himself and for the people, and how can his prayer inform the way we speak with God?
7. After Solomon's prayer and charge to the people, God spoke (1 Kings 9:1-9). What promises did God give the people ("If you do this...I will do this")? How did these promises give both hope and a sober awareness of their need to follow God closely?
8. At the end of his life, the wise King Solomon did some very foolish things (1 Kings 11:1-13). What did he do and what were some of the consequences? How can we avoid finishing poorly?

Homework: Give a charge (some words of wisdom to a young person in your life. Prayerfully identify one or two people that God might want to encourage through your words, meet with them, and share what God places on your heart. The book of Proverbs is 31 chapters long. Consider making a commitment to read one chapter of it each day for the coming month. It will take just a few minutes per day. As you read this amazing book you will grow in wisdom.

For January 9: read Chapter 14 of The Story (1 Kings 12-16)