

# Old Testament

Solomon turns from God

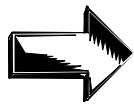
1st Kings 11:1-13; 41-43

## Younger Verse

Set an example for the believers. 1st Timothy 4:12

## Older Verse

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1st Timothy 4:12



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

## Welcome Time

Have you ever had a person who was a good friend, then all of a sudden the person did not talk to you anymore? Let's see how God must have felt when Solomon stopped talking and listening to Him.

## Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned some good lessons from Solomon. When given a chance to ask for anything in the whole world, he asked God to give him wisdom to rule the country. He also built a beautiful temple church for God. It took seven years to build. It must have been a magnificent thing to see!

Solomon loved God, but gradually, he started loving other things and people ahead of God. He had more money than any other person in the world. He also had many beautiful things. Solomon also did something that God asked him not to do. He had many wives from foreign countries.

Back in that time, kings would sometimes make treaties with other countries. To seal the treaty, the king would marry the other ruler's daughter. Solomon had foreign wives even though God asked him not to take foreign wives. God knew that only trouble would come from foreign wives who did not worship Him.

Solomon loved his wives. Believe it or not, he had 700 wives!! Unfortunately, his wives led him astray. He started worshiping false gods instead of the only true God. Solomon's heart no longer was totally devoted to God. He even built special buildings for his wives' false gods.

Teachers: if you feel uncomfortable sharing info. about Solomon's wives, share how bad friends influenced him to slowly turn away from God.

## Lesson Goals

**Talk to God everyday**

**See how important it is to stay close to God so you do not turn away**

**Learn how to love God above all things**

**See how choosing good friends makes a difference in our life**

God was very sad and angry with Solomon. He was hurt that Solomon no longer came to Him for help. God wanted to keep their relationship strong, but Solomon turned away from God. Instead of listening to God, Solomon did things his own way.

God told Solomon that because of his sin and attitude, He would divide the kingdom into two parts.

Just as God said, when Solomon died, the kingdom was divided into two countries. The southern part was called Judah and the northern part was called Israel. Each country had its own king. Unfortunately, most of the kings did not love God.

We can learn lessons from Solomon's life. He stopped following God and horrible consequences happened. He also sinned against God by having foreign wives. This caused him to turn from God. We must remember to always follow God and listen to His voice. We must obey His ways and He will help us choose right paths. We cannot let anything be more important than God.

Just as Solomon sinned, we sin too. Our wrongs separate us from God. God does not want to be separated from us, so He thought of a plan to help bring us back to Himself. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to take the blame for our wrongs. Jesus never did anything wrong. He was willing to die on the cross for all our sin. He did this to help us get to God. Because we have sinned against God, we are separated from God, who is holy and pure. The only way we can get to God is to be cleaned of our sin. If we trust in Jesus and believe that He died for our sin, we must ask Him to forgive our mistakes and come into our heart. Jesus will come into our heart and He promises to stay with us forever. He cleans out all our wrongs and makes us clean and pure before God. Would you like to know how to be clean on the inside? Talk to us about it.

#### Learning Activities

Share how the kids can learn from Solomon's mistakes. Help them see how important it is to follow God all through their life.

#### Memory Verse Activities

Talk about what it means to "set an example." Make bracelets with "SLLFP" on them (for Speech, Life, Love, Faith, Purity). Challenge the kids to be an example this new year.

#### Prayer Time

Ask God to help everyone choose to follow God and not make "stuff" more important than Him.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Clean up and share snacks together.

Planning for Lesson 55  
Elijah is fed and helps a woman  
1 Kings 17:1-24

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Solomon turns from God

We have learned some good lessons from King Solomon. When given a chance to ask for anything in the whole world, he asked God to make him smart to rule the country. He also built a beautiful temple church for God. It took seven years to build. It must have been a magnificent thing to see!

Solomon loved God but, little by little, he started loving other things and people ahead of God. He had more money than any other person in the world. He also had many beautiful things. These things started being more important to him than God.

Solomon also made friends with people who did not love God. They talked him into doing things that were against God. Slowly, Solomon turned away from God. This was a very sad, sad thing to do.

God was very sad with Solomon. He was hurt that Solomon no longer came to Him for help. God wanted to keep their friendship strong, but Solomon turned away from God. Instead of listening to God, Solomon did things his own way.

At the end of Solomon's life, he knew that he had made a big mistake. He knew that the most important thing was to love God.

We can learn from Solomon. God wants us to love Him with all our heart and help others know Him, too.

Let's pray and ask God to help us love Him most of all!

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## Hands-On Activities For Solomon turns from God

Solomon wrote several books of the Bible (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.) God helped Solomon write these three books. Proverbs 10:9 says that a man of honesty walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Solomon was not honest and upfront with God. He had done wrong (taken a crooked path) and God knew. When we do wrong, God knows. He is sad and wants us to ask for forgiveness so that He can clean out the dirt. He also wants us to turn from doing wrong and start doing right.

Use Proverbs 25:26 as an object lesson for the story today. Read the Scripture and bring a bowl or glass of clear water. Now put dirt or sand in the water and watch how the water becomes “muddied or polluted.” Explain how Solomon “gave way to the wicked” when he loved foreign women more than God. He even built special buildings for his wives’ false gods. It is too bad that he didn’t remember this proverb and listen to God and love Him more than anything or anyone else.

In the very last chapter of Ecclesiastes (12:13), Solomon realizes at the end of his life that God is the most important thing. Let’s learn a lesson from Solomon and not wait until the end of our lives to realize that God is the most important thing in life.

Make two batches of snacks using a variety of pretzels, cereal, nuts, raisins, vanilla wafers, animal crackers, etc. In one bowl mix the ingredients. In a second bowl, mix the ingredients but add an extra ingredient that would make it taste awful such as garlic powder or onion powder. Have the kids do a taste test of each. Ask them which is better. Ask them what made the one taste bad. Share how just one wrong ingredient made the whole bowl taste bad. Explain how Solomon’s choice of wives (friends) influenced his life. He began to make wrong choices and follow people instead of following God. His bad choices made bad things happen in his life. Share how we must make good choices and always make sure God is the most important thing in our life.