

# 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 \_“ 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.

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). For the first person in one of the groups put a small amount of shaving cream into the palm of their hand. 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 don't 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.'" **God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.**

## **LESSON TIME!**

We have learned in previous weeks about King Solomon walking in the ways of his father King David and in the ways of the Lord. We've seen how that Solomon was given a lot of wisdom by the Lord, how he used that wisdom to help others, how he built a glorious temple for the Lord, and many other wonderful things.

But as King Solomon got older he married many different women from many different nations. They all worshipped other gods. As he spent more time with them he began to spend less time with God. God always warned his people in the Bible about having relationships with others who worship other Gods. But Solomon didn't listen to those warnings. Solomon's heart began to be drawn

away from the Lord and towards these other false gods. We are going to learn what happened to King Solomon when he turned away from the Lord. We will also learn that **God wants our hearts to stay close to His.**

### 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. For Solomon 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, for kings they were commanded in the Bible not to have a lot of wives (see Deuteronomy 17:14-17). But Solomon disobeyed. And just like it says in the verses in Deuteronomy they turned his heart away from serving the Lord.

Perhaps 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. One way he would arrange this was to marry into the family of powerful men in other nations and bring their daughters into his country. This way they would be related through marriage, and they would be less likely to attack.

In verse two we read that he loved them. He very much cared for them, which is probably what drew his heart away from the Lord. Because he disobeyed the Lord he set himself up for problems. God has reasons why he tells us what to do in His word. He isn't trying to take away our fun or be mean to us. He knows best and if he says that we should do something or not do something it is because He loves us and doesn't want to see us hurt. Over a period of time Solomon loved his wives and his sin more than the Lord. **God wants our hearts to stay close to His.**

Verse three tells us that these women led King Solomon astray in his later years. This happened for many reasons:

1. His wives were strong in their own religious beliefs and practices that they brought from their own countries.
2. King Solomon wasn't as strong in his faith (he began to neglect spending much time with the true God).
3. He may have wanted to make his wives happy so he joined in their religious meetings and worship.

Before long, Solomon's heart began to be drawn away after these 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 need to be careful about the friends we choose; if our friends do not love the Lord ,

they may cause us to stumble. God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.

### 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 he 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. He began as a king who was totally devoted to God but sadly allowed his heart to be turned away from Him. **God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.**

### 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, Deuteronomy 17:16-20 gives certain instructions for a king in Israel. These were instructions given by the Lord. 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 into something really bad. For Solomon it got so bad that even when the Lord spoke to him, he would not turn from his sin.

Verse 11 says, “since this is your attitude.” That says we have a choice whether we will be fully devoted to God or not. We make choices every morning, afternoon and evening about spending time with the Lord or spending 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. **God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.**

## **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. One of the things that led Solomon away



from the Lord was all of the other things in his life that took him away from spending time with the Lord.

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

We will see in upcoming lessons how that God brought all of this to pass. But He still has special plans for His people. Even though Solomon’s son sinned and many of the kings that followed him, God still had made a promise. The kingdom of Israel would never again be as great as in the days of Solomon, but God would fulfill a special promise. A son of David would sit on the throne forever and it would be fulfilled one day through Jesus (Jesus was born in the line of King David’s family).

While teaching us about the consequences of not being wholehearted in following the Lord, the Lord was also showing compassion to King Solomon in another way. Even when we don’t walk with the Lord, He remains faithful. We serve such a wonderful God. His great grace makes us want to forsake everything and follow him. We need to be very careful about distractions in our lives, so we can put all of our focus on Him. **God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.**

### 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 40 years...” The Lord showed His chosen people Israel who He was during Solomon’s lifetime. A lot of the relationship between Solomon and his God is recorded for us to learn the blessings of following after God all our lives. We have also learned a lot about the consequences of not choosing to be fully devoted to God all the days of our lives. **God wants our hearts to always stay close to His.**

May we all 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 can. Let’s never allow our hearts to be influenced by others or this world and drift away to serve other gods. As we wake up every morning we need to freshly commit ourselves to serving the Lord. We need to be careful about the tricks of the enemy, the Devil and how he would want to distract us from what God would have us to do. How we need to always remember to just keep things simple in our relationship with the Lord and then our hearts and minds will stay focused on Him. **God wants our hearts to stay close to His.**

## **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 always remain faithful. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

# TIME STEALER

Color the squares that takes our time;

One day in our lives	7: AM	8:	9:	10:	11:	12: PM	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	6:	7:	8:	9:	10:	11:
food																	
music																	
TV																	
sports																	
games																	
choir																	
piano																	
computer																	
Bible																	
praise																	
prayer																	

1. How much time do we spend eating?
2. How much time do we spend doing or watching sports?
3. How much time do we spend with the Lord each day?
4. Are there times that we can spend more time reading our Bibles, praying or memorizing verses?