



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—(2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

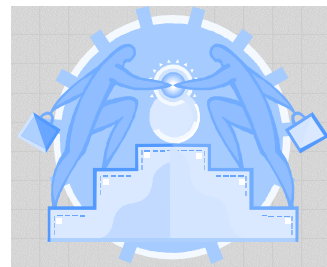
Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Share with the group how your family handled problems when you were growing up. How does this compare with your typical first response when a problem arises?
2. What are some things about "who God is" that you rely on when problems arise.
3. How easy is it for you to ask anyone for help when facing difficulties? How about asking God—is this easy or hard? Why?
4. What are some of the feelings you have when facing problems? Are you able to share these feelings with God, and why is it important to do so?
5. How is it possible to "thank God in advance" when problems arise? Why must this follow the 1st 4 steps (turn to God 1st, talk to God, tell God how I feel, trust God to help me)?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

9:00		10:45	
Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Hixson-Sturgill-Bower
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims-Fendley	Rm 201	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 202		Rm 202	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles—Franklin	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 204	Making Peace with Your Past	Rm 204	Blessings in Disguise
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 206	Master Your Money—Lux	Rm 206	
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	Engaged/Newly Married
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Hubbard-Anderson- Robertson
		Gym-3rd fl	College Ayres-Getchell

May 23, 2004

Living Like a King

Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings

Celebration Fellowship

Habitat for Divinity

A preview of I Kings 5-8

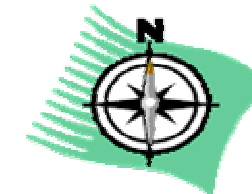
One of the great benevolence efforts occurring today is Habitat for Humanity, which provides a permanent residence for an underprivileged family that they would not have been able to afford. But, unlike Habitat for Humanity, Solomon, in the greatest achievement of his reign, built a "Habitat for Divinity", for the LORD Himself. He did it, not because God needed it or couldn't afford it; but because God had graciously granted Solomon this privilege. Yet even though He didn't need it, God was pleased with it, just as He had

been pleased that David, Solomon's father, had wanted to do that very thing. Solomon's temple was a place for Israel to meet with God, and to look to and be reassured that God was indeed among them. Since this was to be the permanent earthly dwelling place of the LORD, Solomon went to great lengths to make everything just right. Elaborate attention to detail, the importation of the finest craftsman and finest materials, conducting the work quietly, and the covering of everything in gold all contributed to the sense of



We can live like kings when we follow the King, Jesus.

how special this place was to be – because the very God of the universe had chosen to dwell there. The lesson for us is that we, too, are a "habitat for divinity"; no cost should be spared to assure that we, like the Temple, are a worthy dwelling place for him.



Volume 2, Issue 42

May 23, 2004

Inside this issue:

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

"It's Not Fixed Until..."

There was a commercial a few years ago which carried the tag line "it's not fixed (say this with a lisp) until we say it's fixed". The point was that it was not fixed until it was really fixed—just saying it was fixed didn't make it so. This applies to this week's study in 1 Kings. As David was about pass his kingship on, several things had to be fixed, and they wouldn't go away simply by ignoring them. David's son, Adonijah, desperately wanted to be the next king. David was in such poor health that he had to have a body warmer in bed with him—a young virgin named Abishag—although he didn't have sexual relations with her. Adonijah attempted to use David's health as an opportunity to seize the throne by stealth. He invited two of David's closest advisors, Joab, his military commander, and Abiathar, one of his priests, to his coronation party on the other side of Jerusalem. Absent, however, were Nathan, the

prophet, Benaiah, the commander of the elite forces, Zadok, another priest, and most notably Solomon, who had been promised by David to be the next king. The absence of this group showed the deceit that was in Adonijah's heart. Nathan reported this to Bathsheba when he heard of it, for she was not only the Queen, and the mother of Solomon, but also the one to whom David had sworn that Solomon would succeed him. Nathan instructed her to go to David and inform him of Adonijah's actions, and remind him of his vow before God that Solomon would succeed him. Nathan told her that, as she was doing this, he would come in and confirm the truth of what Bathsheba was saying to David. Nathan's actions provide a wise example to follow when a problem arises. Just as Nathan acted on the truth (David's words) to resolve this situation, we must likewise act boldly on the truth, regardless of cost.

(I Kings 1-4)

Simply grumbling about an unexpected problem is not enough—resolution requires action. David, in spite of his poor health, also acted wisely in response to the problem. He called Bathsheba to his side, reconfirmed his vow that Solomon would be king, then put things in place so that his will would be executed. He instructed Nathan, Zadok, and Benaiah to place Solomon on his royal mule, crown him as King, and parade him along the streets of Jerusalem to announce his kingship. Everyone's response to David showed he had acted wisely—Bathsheba bowed before him, his advisors told her that, as she was doing this, the people celebrated the decision. This shows the positive effect that comes when wrongs are corrected and it demonstrates the wisdom of this course of action. However, not everyone will be pleased; when Jonathan told Adonijah and his guests of Solomon's boldness on the truth, regardless of cost.

(Continued on page 2)

1 Kings 1-4 (continued from pg 1)

mon's coronation, they all fled, fearing for their lives. Adonijah, realizing that Solomon would see him as a threat, went to the altar and clutched its horns for safety. Solomon, leaving him in God's hands, graciously allowed him to live, but did let him know he was on a "short leash". Following this David officially passed the kingship to Solomon, and communicated his priorities to him. He called on him to act courageously by walking in all the Lord's ways and obeying His Word. By the Lord's authority, David promised him that if he did, his son would also sit on the throne of Israel. David then told Solomon to resolve some unfinished business. First, he wanted Joab, who had brazenly killed Abner and Amasa, to be punished, thus removing the stain of innocent blood from his dynasty. He also wanted Barzillai, who had shown him kindness as he fled from Absalom, to be rewarded, setting a tone of kindness for his kingdom. Finally, he desired that Shimei, who had cursed him as he ran from Absalom, to be brought to justice—but he left the timing to Solomon. Solomon followed David's instructions in ways that left him blameless. First, Adonijah requested the hand of Abishag in marriage, a deliberate act of treason

(although he tried to disguise it). This sealed his death warrant, and Solomon obliged. Because of Adonijah's execution, Joab knew he was next. In spite of holding onto the horns of the altar, he was executed. The third conspirator, Abiathar, was relieved of his priestly duties (which fulfilled Samuel's word to Eli over a 100 years before) and shamefully went to his home to die. The last holdover to be dealt with, Shimei, also brought about his own demise. He had agreed to stay within the borders of Jerusalem or face death, probably because he might stir up rebellion if he returned home to the territory of Benjamin. One day, in pursuit of runaway slaves, Shimei crossed the borders. He was consequently executed as Solomon

had promised. Thus, Solomon's kingdom, being purged of its rebellious elements, was established. He further strengthened the kingdom by marrying Pharaoh's daughter, thus forming an alliance with Egypt. He concluded this phase of his reign by worshipping God, and, in response to God's promise to give him whatever he wanted, he prayed for wisdom to justly rule Israel. This pleased God so much that He told him He would not only give him wisdom, but also riches, honor, and a long reign if he continued to walk in the ways of his father. This teaches us that when we ask for the right things for the right reasons, God gives us even more than we ask. Solomon's wisdom is illustrated in the next story, in which he helped determine which mother a baby belonged to. Understanding human nature, he used the maternal instincts of the true mother to determine the baby's identity. Because of Solomon's wisdom life was wonderful in those days. Everyone was prosperous, and the entire world was attracted to Israel's doorstep to hear Solomon. As we see in this study, when wisdom is followed truth prevails, problems are resolved and prosperity abounds. God's wisdom is the only way to fix the problems we face.

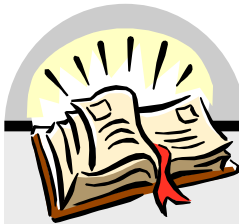


"God's wisdom is the only way to fix the problems we face."

Study Questions for 1 Kings 5-8

One of the greatest achievements of Solomon's reign was the building of an permanent dwelling place for God among His people.

1. Read 1 Kings 5:1-5. What did Solomon want to do (v5), and for what reason (V5)? Why did God not allow David to do this (v3), and what does this say about what should characterize the worship of God?
2. In 1 Kings 5:6-18 what did Solomon request (v6), and how did Hiram respond to him (v7-8)? What did this confirm (v12) and what was the result (v12)? What can we learn from this?
3. From 1 Kings 6:1-13 what was avoided as the temple was built (v7) and why do you think it was done that way? What did God say to Solomon as he built the house (v11-13) and how does this show the true significance of the temple?



"When we ask for the right things for the right reasons, God gives us even more than we ask."

4. Looking at 1 Kings 6:14-38 what was much of the temple covered with (v20-22, 28, 30, 32, 35), and how much detail was there in the building (29-36)? Why do you think Solomon did this?

5. In 1 Kings 7:1-12 how long did Solomon take to build his palace (v1)? How does this compare with the building of the temple (6:38), and what do you think that means? How can we apply this?

6. From 1 Kings 7:13-51 who did Solomon bring in to finish all the furniture and utensils in the Temple (v13) and why (v14)? Why do you think he did this, and how can we apply this our spiritual lives?

7. Using 1 Kings 8:1-11 what was the final act in the completion of the temple (v1, 4, 6), and what did this represent (v6)? How did the LORD confirm this (v10-11)? How do you think everyone felt?

8. Looking at 1 Kings 8:12-21 what promises did the LORD fulfill (v15, 18-19, 20)? What was so exciting about the Temple for Solomon and the people (v12-13, 21)? How can we apply this spiritually?

9. Read 1 Kings 8:22-30. List some characteristics of the LORD from these verses (v23, 24, 27). What did Solomon request from God in general (v25, 26, 28-29, 30)?

10. In 1 Kings 8:31-53 what specific things did Solomon request (v31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-39, 43, 44-45, 46-50), and for what purpose (v40, 43, 51-53)? Why would these needs arise (v46)?

11. According to 1 Kings 8:54-66 how certain is the fulfillment of the promises of the Lord (v56), what should His people ask for (v57-59), and for what purpose (v59-60)? How did the temple dedication end (v65-66)?

12. In summary how much effort was put into building the Temple and why? What was the purpose of the Temple, its function, and the result of its construction? Since we are His Temple today how can we apply this?



Memory Verse

"Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God"
1 Kings 8:61