



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Acts 8:25-40

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 the first thing that pops into your mind when you hear the word "evangelism" or "evangelist"? Does that affect your attitudes about doing evangelism?
2. From Philip's example in Acts 8:26, what do we have to do to be in the "right place" to share the gospel (eternal and abundant life through Jesus) with someone.
3. Who begins the "work" of evangelism in a person's heart? How should this help us to get personally involved in evangelism?
4. From what part of the Bible did Philip explain Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch? How do you think he was able to do that? How could we apply that to our lives?
5. For you to get involved in evangelism, which of these elements do you need to work on today: becoming obedient and submissive to the Lord, trusting His advance work, or getting familiar enough with the Word to be able to share according to whatever the need is?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

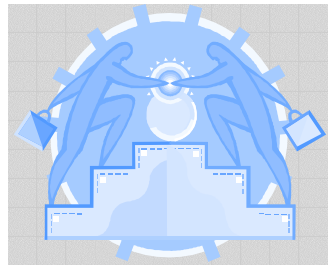
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

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 30, 2004

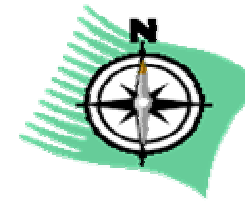
Living Like a King

Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings

Celebration Fellowship

Rise and Fall of the Solomon Empire

A preview of I Kings 9-11



Volume 2, Issue 43
May 30, 2004

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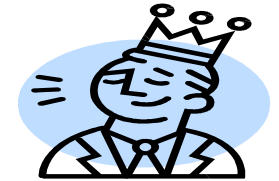
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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- 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

In the 1700s Edward Gibbons wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire", a monumental analysis explaining how an empire as great as Rome could have fallen from its lofty perch. It showed that present greatness is no guarantee of such a status in the future; anyone who does not continue to follow the principles that led them to that high place will fall. So it was with Solomon. During Solomon's reign he achieved more than any king of Israel, before or after; but because he didn't keep on doing the things that led to his greatness, his

days ended with his kingdom tottering on the precipice of disintegration. Solomon had begun in humility and dependence on God, believing that, on his own, he was unable to shepherd God's chosen people. Because of this attitude God chose to bless him with wisdom, riches and honor. To his credit, he also finished the work of his father, David, by building God a temple in which to dwell. He became the greatest king on earth, so great that the entire world "beat a path" to his doorstep to marvel at his greatness. But, failing to main



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

tain his focus on God and His people, he began to indulge his selfish desires for wealth, might and women. Incredibly, he even began to worship other gods. And so, Solomon's kingdom, which had risen to such great heights, was ready to fall.

"If You Build It He Will Come"

In the movie "Field of Dreams" the message is clear: "If you build it they will come". So, the character played by Kevin Costner begins to build a baseball field in the cornfield outside his Midwestern home. Sure enough, upon its completion baseball players from the early 20th century began to show up and play baseball. Climatically, Kevin Costner's dad shows up to play "catch" with him, fulfilling a childhood need of his son. The compulsion to connect with his dad had driven Kevin Costner to build his "field of dreams". King David had a similar experience: he felt compelled to build a house for the LORD so that He would come and live in the midst of His people. The study this week builds on that desire; Solomon, David's son, desired to build a house for the LORD in fulfillment of David's dream. Although God had commended David for his desire to do this, He had not allowed it because he was a man of bloodshed. It wasn't

appropriate for the temple that the LORD would live in to be built by hands that had been involved in violence (although David's was usually carried out in battles). Similarly, we must understand that when anyone's heart is filled with violence (using people to get what they want through manipulation, abuse, bullying, etc) he cannot fellowship with God in worship. So, Solomon (whose name means "peace"), in fulfillment of God's promise to allow David's son to build a house for Him, did just that. He began by requesting Lebanese cedar—the best wood in the world for building—from Hiram, King of Tyre. Solomon, wanting the best for the LORD, was willing to go outside of Israel's borders to make this happen. In the same way we should let nothing stand in the way of giving our best to the LORD, especially a closed mindset. The results of this were twofold: first, it confirmed that Solomon did

(I Kings 5-8)

have God's wisdom, a fact for which Hiram praised God. Secondly, peace between Israel and Tyre was established, and Hiram consented to provide cedar and cypress wood in exchange for provisions for his household. As always, when we utilize true (God's) wisdom, peace is the result. As Solomon began to build the temple he was mindful of several details. One of those was the cutting of all the stone in the quarry, rather than at the building site. This symbolized that even the sound of "violence" from an axe or a hammer was out of place in the building of the LORD's house. Since the purpose of the house was that of providing a dwelling place for the LORD of peace, and to be a place to celebrate that peace as the LORD was worshipped, violence was contrary to it. As Solomon began this building the LORD spoke to him that He would indeed dwell in this house if Israel would walk in His ways,

(Continued on page 2)

I Kings 5-8 (continued from pg 1)

showing that the real significance of the temple was not its beauty, but the fact that the LORD would dwell there among His people. Another detail which Solomon took care of was the covering of the walls and some of the furniture with gold. This symbolized the great value and majesty of the LORD. Also, Solomon hired Hiram of Tyre (different from the king), a skilled craftsman in bronze, to craft all the items of bronze, and to add detail to the work that was being done. Attention to detail says that the One for whom the details are done is worthy of such attention. So, again, Solomon's focus on the LORD's glory, rather than his or Israel's, was evident. He went out and got the best for the LORD, and devoted great energy to detail because He was worthy of it. Likewise, our obedience to God in the "details" of our lives declares that He is worthy of such devotion. After this, Solomon, having built the temple in 7 years, then built his own palace in 13 years. The extra time he took to build his own house (regardless of the fact that his house was bigger) may indicate that, although he was concerned for the LORD's glory, he was even more concerned for his own

affairs. Even so, God was pleased, and when the Ark of the Covenant (representing His presence) was brought in to complete the temple, God filled the Holy Place with the cloud of His presence. This awesome and exciting event confirmed that God had come to live in their midst. Also, He had fulfilled His promises to allow David's son (Solomon) to sit on the throne, and to allow this son to build a house in which He would dwell. It was exciting that God would indeed dwell with them, as He does with us through His Spirit. As Solomon pointed out, He is the unique God of heaven and earth, who faithfully keeps His promises and His covenant of loving-kindness with His



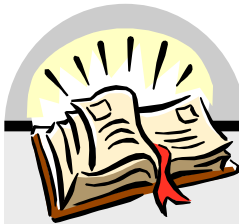
"He [God] is so immense that the entire universe cannot contain Him."

obedient servants. He is so immense that the entire universe cannot contain Him. Based on this Solomon requested that the LORD would uphold His promise that David's descendants, so long as they were faithful to Him, would sit on the throne of Israel. He specifically asked God for justice on the wicked and for the righteous, and to hear the prayers of Israel when they prayed towards the temple—whether they be experiencing famine, drought, disease, pestilence, defeat in battle, or even captivity. These needs would arise because of Israel's sinfulness, because there is no man who does not sin. He also prayed that the prayer towards the temple by the foreigner in their midst be heard. All of this was so that Israel, and all the earth, would fear and worship the LORD. As the temple dedication concluded with 1000s of animal sacrifices, the LORD's faithfulness was reflected upon. For example, not one of His promises to Israel from the time of Moses had failed (some 480 years). He is indeed a God who can be trusted, and so we ask, as they did, that He remain near to us, incline our hearts to Himself, and maintain our cause each day. As God's temple, when we take great

Study Questions for 1 Kings 9-11

Solomon's wisdom and achievements attract the whole world to Israel, but sadly, it will not last.

1. Read 1 Kings 9:1-9. What did God confirm for Solomon (v3), what did he promise (v5), and what was the condition (v4)? What warning did he give him (v6) and what would be the result (v7-9)?
2. In 1 Kings 9:10-14 what did Solomon give to Hiram as payment for his services (v10-11), and what was Hiram's response (v12-13)? Since Solomon didn't act to resolve this, what do you think that indicates?
3. Looking at 1 Kings 9:15-28 what did Solomon build (v15, 17-19, 24, v26) and how (v20-21, 23)? What 2 good things are recorded in these verses (v22, 25)? How is his wisdom illustrated in this section?



"Our obedience to God in the "details" of our lives declares that He is worthy of such devotion."

4. From 1 Kings 10:1-10 who visited Solomon (v1-2) and why (v1)? What things impressed her (v4-5) and how did she respond (v6-10)? From Solomon's example, how can we make an impact for the Lord on the world around us?

5. Using 1 Kings 10:11-22 list the various things that show the wealth of Solomon. Why do you think God allowed Solomon to become so wealthy (see 1 Kings 3:10-15; 10:1-10)? Do you think he was faithful?

6. Looking at 1 Kings 10:23-29 what else did Solomon have in abundance (v23-24, 25, 26-29), and what effect did this have (v24)? How should we apply this to our lives today?

7. Read 1 Kings 11:1-8. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have (v3), and how did this affect his heart (v2, 4)? How did it affect his actions (v5-8), and why should Solomon have known better (v2)?

8. From 1 Kings 11:9-13 how did the Lord feel about Solomon's defection (v9-10)? What consequence did God promise Solomon (v11-13), and what grace did He show to him (v12-13)?

9. Looking at 1 Kings 11:14-25 who became Solomon's adversaries (v14, 23) and why (v15-16, 24)? What happened that made Hadad go back to Edom to harass Solomon (v21)? What lessons are here?

10. In 1 Kings 11:26-40 who was the 3rd adversary (v26) and what was he like (v27-28)? What was prophesied of him (v31, 37), what opportunity was he offered (v38), and how did Solomon react (v40)?

11. Using 1 Kings 11:31-39 why was God gracious to Solomon and Israel (v32, 34, 36, 39)? Who would be the fulfillment of v39 (see Isaiah 9:6-7)? What can we learn about how God deals with us from this?

12. From this study what good things did Solomon do that we should follow (9:22-23, 25; 10:3-5, 23-24). Based on Deuteronomy 17:14-17 what did Solomon do wrong (10:14-22, 26-29; 11:1-8)?



Memory Verse

**"And all the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart."
1 Kings 10:24**