



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—1 Kings 10-11

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 a time in your life when you felt like you really "shone". Is there a special area in which you feel like you shine?
2. How have you seen God use you for His glory in an area of ability in your life? What could you do for that to happen even more?
3. Of the 4 stumblingblocks to "shining" for God (pride, comparison, worldly thinking, or passiveness), which do you struggle with most?
4. Which of the 4 ways of developing a life that shines for God (prayer, compassion, God's wisdom, initiative) do you need to work on most? How can the group help you with this?
5. Talk about as a group some of the ways that we can guard our hearts from losing the "shine". Let each person share which way they need to focus on.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

We're on the Web!

Www. Celebrationnet.com

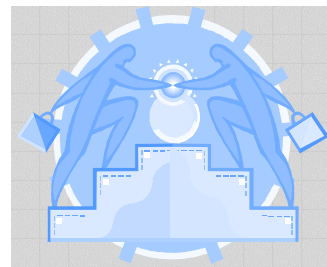
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

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

June 6, 2004

Living Like a King
Fulfilling Our Call to Royalty from 1 & 2 Kings

Celebration Fellowship

Pay Me Now Or...

A preview of I Kings 12-14

There was a commercial a few years ago in which the customers were encouraged to buy a higher priced (but better) oil filter. If they didn't pay the mechanic now to install the pricier filter, they would pay him later for the repairs that would result. This illustrates the principle of choices and consequences: the present choices we make have certain consequences in the future. In this week's study we see several examples of this. First, Rehoboam, Solomon's son, unwisely chose to rule Israel in a harsh manner. The result

was that the ten northern tribes seceded from the nation. There was Jeroboam, the first king of the ten tribes, who, rather than following God's direction, instituted a whole system of false worship. Consequently, his dynasty would be destroyed, and the northern kingdom would eventually follow suit as God disciplined them. One of God's prophets even fell prey to bad choices. Instead of listening to and obeying only God, he ate with a false prophet and lost his life as a result. The last major example in this section was



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

Rehoboam, whose choice to begin false worship led to an invasion by Egypt. He had to replace the gold shields they took with cheap substitutes made of bronze. These examples all show us that we can either "pay" God now, following His standards, or we can pay Him later.

"The Fly in the Ointment"

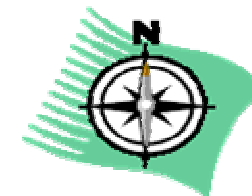
Ecclesiastes 10:1, "Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink". The point is that even the best perfume can be ruined by one rotting fly. Solomon's reign shows this; he did many wonderful things that "smelled" good, but his "flies in the ointment" finally spoiled the scent. He began well; having built a "house" for God, and asking for God to hear the prayers directed to Him, God confirmed that He would do just that. Additionally He promised Solomon a dynasty forever—if he and his sons would walk before Him as David had done. Although he had committed a heinous sin, David's heart was still wholly devoted to God—and this is what God desired from Solomon. On the flip side, God warned Solomon that if he and his sons failed to obey His commands, and served other gods, He would "cast" Israel out of their land. The misery of their situation, due to their rejection of God, would become proverbial. After these

promises and warnings, Solomon began the major part of his reign. He had to pay King Hiram of Tyre for his help in building, so he gave him 20 towns in Galilee. However, Hiram was displeased with them, and called them "cabul", which means "good for nothing". In spite of Hiram's feeling that he had been "short-changed", Solomon did nothing to resolve the situation. His indifference to Hiram possibly indicated that he was already becoming obsessed with the accumulation of material wealth. This was also demonstrated by all of his building—he built his and God's house, a house for his wife, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, the lower Beth-Horon, Baalath, Tamar, and storage cities as needed. He also built a fleet of ships that could retrieve gold from Ophir. He used Canaanite, rather than Jewish, labor to do all this building, and he set up chief officers to oversee the work. His

(I Kings 9-11)

usage of foreign labor, instead of Jewish, showed his respect for God's law (Lev 25:39) and for his fellow Jews. Another commendable thing he did was to continue to observe the offerings the three times a year prescribed by the Mosaic law (Ex 23:14-17) even though the work continued on. Solomon's wisdom is displayed in this section by his ability to delegate responsibility to his chief officers, by his unwillingness to use Jewish labor, and by his keeping the LORD as a priority during the building. All of this work caused Solomon's reputation to grow. The queen of Sheba, hearing of his fame with regard to the name of the LORD, came to Israel to test him with difficult questions. Having exhausted her imagination, she exclaimed that reports of Solomon were greatly understated. His wisdom, his house, the food and servants of his table, their attendance and attire, and even the stairway leading to

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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

I Kings 9-11 (continued from pg 1)

the Temple, all impressed her. Her response was how blessed Solomon's kingdom was to have a king as wise as he, and also what blessings the LORD deserved, who had delighted to set Solomon over Israel and give him this wisdom. This teaches us, similarly, that when we do everything with excellence and wisdom, giving credit to God, people around us will be attracted to Him. They will want to know more and God will be glorified. Because early in his reign Solomon had asked for wisdom, and not wealth, God had given him wealth anyway. This is seen in the 25 tons of gold that came into his treasuries annually, in the gold shields that hung in his armory, in his magnificent ivory throne, which, along with the furniture of his palace, was overlaid with gold. It appears, though, that Solomon became preoccupied with the material blessings that God had given him, continuing to accumulate beyond his needs. Not only did he have gold in abundance, but also silver, garments, weapons, spices, cedars, horses, and chariots. With the divine wisdom and wealth that Solomon had, the whole earth was attracted to him. God's purpose through Solomon was to show the results of living according to His wisdom,

and to make him an exhibition of His grace. Tragically, along with gold, silver, and horses, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. The Mosaic law prohibited Israel's kings from multiplying gold, horses, and wives because they would turn the king's heart away from the LORD, as they did with Solomon. He was no longer fully devoted to the LORD, but began to worship the gods of his wives and built them altars. He knew from the Law that his actions were wrong, part of the reason that the LORD was angry with Solomon. He promised to raise up adversaries against him, and so Hadad, an Edomite, Rezon, a Syrian, and Jeroboam, a servant's son, all opposed him in his latter years. Hadad and Rezon did so



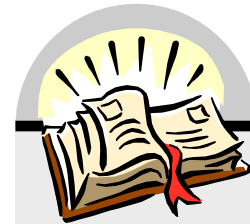
"Violence done to people never goes away on its own, but must be accounted for."

because they or their families had been victims of David's violence, and when they saw that David and Joab were dead, they seized the opportunity to harass Solomon's kingdom. This teaches us that the violence done to people never goes away on its own, but must be accounted for. The last adversary, Jeroboam, was a valiant warrior, and an industrious servant of Solomon's. But one day the LORD spoke through the prophet, Ahijah, that he would rule 10 tribes which would be torn away from Solomon. When Solomon found out about this he tried to kill him. The LORD also promised to keep Jeroboam's sons on the throne if they would walk in His ways as David had done. Because of David's devotion to Him, the LORD kept extending His grace to Solomon, and even to Jeroboam. He promised one day that David's descendants would not be afflicted, an allusion to Jesus as the future King of Israel. Just as God blessed Solomon because of David, so He blesses us because we are "in Christ". This is what grace is all about; but Solomon, having done so many things well, didn't understand. He accumulated wealth, horses and wives, contrary to God's Law. Those "dead flies" had spoiled his perfume.

Study Questions for I Kings 12-14

The first kings of the divided kingdom, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, each make choices that will bring God's judgment.

1. Read 1 Kings 12:1-15. Who reigned after Solomon (v1), what proposal was made to him (v4), and by whom (v2-3)? What were Rehoboam's options (v6-7, 10-11), and what did he decide (v8, 14)? Evaluate his decision and why he did this (v15).
2. In 1 Kings 12:16-24 what response did the northern tribes have (v16, 19-20) and why? How did Rehoboam respond (v18, 21), but what did God direct (v22-24)? What do we learn from this whole incident?
3. Looking at 1 Kings 12:25-33 what did Jeroboam do wrong (v28, 31, 32, 33), and why (v27). What was wrong with his decision, both generally and specifically (see 1 Kings 11:37-38)?



"God's purpose through Solomon was to show the results of living according to His wisdom."

4. From 1 Kings 13:1-6 what did the man of God prophesy (v2), and why, and what would be the sign (v3)? What was Jeroboam's response (v4, 6), God's reaction (v4-5), and the prophet's response (v6)?

5. Using 1 Kings 13:7-25 what did the man of God do right (v7-10), and what did he do wrong (v19), and why (v14-18)? What was the result (v20-25)? What do you think God was teaching here (v25)?

6. Looking at 1 Kings 13:26-34 what did the false prophet do (v29-31) and what did he reconfirm (v32)? What was Jeroboam's response to all of this (v33), and what would be the consequence (v34)?

7. Read 1 Kings 14:1-5. Who visited Ahijah the prophet (v2), and why (v1)? What is contradictory about Jeroboam's actions, and how does this illustrate human nature?

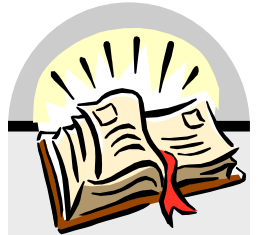
8. From 1 Kings 14:6-16 how did the prophet respond to Jeroboam's wife (v6), what was the message (v7-11, 12-13, 14-16), and why (v8-9, 15-16)?

9. Looking at 1 Kings 14:17-20 what happened (17-18), and what did this confirm (v18)? What king would succeed Jeroboam (v20)?

10. In 1 Kings 14:21-24 what did Judah (the 2 southern tribes) do that angered God (v22-24), and what was one possible reason (v21—see 1 Kings 11:5)? Why was this so foolish (v24)? How can we apply this?

11. Using 1 Kings 14:25-31 what final event of Rehoboam's reign is recorded (v25-26), how did he respond (v27-28), and how does this event show how far Judah had fallen (see 1 Kings 3:1)? What does this teach us?

12. Looking back over I Kings 12-14 what wrong choices did Jeroboam, Rehoboam and the man of God make? What were the consequences, and what should they have done instead?



Memory Verse

**"So they listened to the word of the LORD, and [obediently] returned and went their way."
1 Kings 12:24**