

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 26

God punishes Solomon
1 Kings 11:1-43



DAY 1

Solomon turned away from God • 1 Kings 11:1-8

READ 

1 Kings 11:1-8

EXPLAIN 

The truth of 1 Kings 11:1-8

The trouble begins when you chose to ignore God's commands (1 Kgs 11:1-2). God commands you to love Him with an undivided heart (Deut 6:5), and cling to Him, for He is your life (30:20). To help Israel do this, God commanded them not to marry the idolatrous inhabitants of the land (7:3-4). God also commanded the king not to take many wives (17:17), for these would turn his heart away from God. But Solomon did not listen. He loved his wives more than God and clung to them instead of God (1 Kgs 11:2). When Solomon ignored God's command, the results were exactly as God predicted: his wives turned his heart away from God (11:3). This is where sin always starts, in the heart (Mark 7:21-23). The sin in Solomon's heart grew into open idolatry (1 Kgs 11:4). He worshiped other gods, which was evil in God's sight (11:6). God demands exclusive worship, because He is a jealous God (Exod 20:3, 5). He is *different* from all other so-called gods (Isa 40:18, 25; 26:5). He is *holy* (Isa 6:3). He alone is worthy of worship.

ASK 

1. What did Solomon have a lot of?
He had a lot of wives. 1,000 of them.
2. What did his wives do to his heart?
They turned his heart away from God.
3. Why was Solomon's idolatry evil in God's eyes?
It was evil because God is the only one who is to be worshiped.
4. Should Solomon have known better?
Yes. God had appeared to Solomon twice, giving him wisdom and clear instructions.

DISCUSS 

1. What are some rules your parents have for you? How are these rules a blessing for you? Do you see God's commands as a blessing to keep you close to Him?
2. We give undivided attention to what we love. Are there any activities you give undivided attention to? How do you feel when someone gives you divided attention?

DAY 2

God punished Solomon • 1 Kings 11:9–25

READ

1 Kings 11:9–25

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 11:9–25

God was right to be angry with Solomon for rejecting His commandments (1 Kgs 11:9–10). God had loved Solomon from birth (2 Sam 12:24), David had taught him wisely (1 Kgs 2:1–4), and God had appeared to him twice, giving him great wisdom and clear instructions (1 Kgs 3:5–14; 9:1–9). Solomon had every advantage, but he threw it all away. So God **disciplined** Solomon: He punished him in love in order to correct and restore. He would tear the kingdom away from Solomon (11:11), just as He had warned (9:6–8), but He would still honor His covenant with David. He honored the covenant, first, by not taking the kingdom away during Solomon's reign, for He had promised not to reject him (2 Sam 7:15). Second, He would not remove the entire kingdom from David's line, because He had chosen David and Jerusalem (1 Kgs 11:12–13; cf. 2 Sam 7:16). Third, God kept His promise to discipline Solomon with the blows of men (2 Sam 7:14; 1 Kgs 11:14–25). In this way God faithfully loved and faithfully disciplined at the same time.

ASK

1. What advantages did Solomon have?
God's love, wisdom, and instruction, and David's teaching.
2. How did God punish Solomon?
God promised to take much of the kingdom away, and He brought enemies to fight against him.
3. Who did God use to discipline Solomon?
Hadad in the south and Rezon in the north.
4. Did Solomon's sin cancel God's covenant with David?
No. God promised to discipline, but not to reject.

DISCUSS

1. God acted like a father to Solomon. Parents: how can you imitate God by both loving and disciplining your children? Children: are you thankful for discipline, or would you like it better if your parents excused your sin (Prov 13:24; Heb 12:5–6)?
2. Have you ever lost special privileges because you did not obey? Has your sin ever hurt others too? Who else was hurt by Solomon's sin?

DAY 3

God replaced Solomon • 1 Kings 11:26–43

READ

1 Kings 11:26–43

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 11:26–43

Solomon failed, but God did not. Because Solomon failed, God brought a third enemy, an enemy from within (1 Kgs 11:26), who would divide Israel. God promised to tear ten tribes from Solomon's son and give them to Jeroboam because of Solomon's idolatry (11:29–37). In the end Solomon died and his glory faded away (11:40–43). But God's promise to restore

David's line will never perish (11:39). From the broken stump of the once glorious line a shoot would grow once again (Isa 11:1). Solomon was a failed prince of peace, but Jesus, the Son of David, is the true Prince of Peace. Jesus proved faithful to the very end (Psalm 22; Luke 23:46), and His heart belonged fully to the Father (Matt 26:39; John 4:34). At His first coming He made righteousness available by paying the price of sin (Rom 3:24–26), and at His second coming He will establish His righteous rule as He reigns from Jerusalem over the entire earth (Isa 2:1–4). Solomon failed. We all fail. But Jesus did not. He is our hope.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Ahijah do to show that God was going to take Solomon's kingdom away?
Ahijah ripped a new robe into 12 parts. Jeroboam would get ten of them.
2. Why did God leave one tribe for Solomon's son?
To show His love for David and to keep His promise to David.
3. How does God's promise that David's house will not be humbled forever come true?
It comes true in Jesus Christ, the Son of David. He is the sinless, victorious, eternal king.

DISCUSS 

1. God used other men (Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam) to discipline Solomon. How does this reveal God's sovereign power over all the earth?
2. How did God have mercy on Solomon in the midst of judgment?

DAY 4*God's commands are a wall of protection • Psalm 119:161-168***READ** 

Psalm 119:161-168

EXPLAIN **The truth of Psalm 119:161-168**

God's commands are for your good. When Solomon ignored God's command, the results were exactly as God predicted (1 Kgs 11:3). How foolish! God's commands are a wall of protection for your own good, not an obstacle to your happiness. When you choose to climb over the wall, you fall into disaster. His commands keep you on the right path and protect you from great evil (Prov 4:11-19) So stand in awe of God's word, even when life is hard (119:161). Rejoice over God's word, like one who finds great treasure (119:162). Love God's law and hate anything that contradicts it (119:163). Remember God's law all day long and continually praise Him for it (119:164). Don't just say you love it: if you love God's law you will also keep it, because God knows your ways and He knows what is best (119:167-168). If you do this, you will find peace because God's law keeps you from stumbling (119:165). You will have hope of salvation instead of fearing judgment (119:166).

ASK 

1. What happens when you ignore or disobey God's commandments?
We fall into disaster.
2. What happens when you keep God's commandments?
We have peace, for God's commands protect us from harm.
3. When you see how good God's law is, what is the right response?
To love God's law, praise God for His law, and keep God's law.

DISCUSS 

1. Can you think of any rules at your house that protect you from harm? The last time you chose to disobey a rule, did it lead to happiness or sadness?
2. In today's Bible passage, the Psalmist proclaims his love for God's word. Do you love God's word? If so, how is this love seen in your life?

DAY 5

God disciplines those He loves • Hebrews 12:6

READ

Hebrews 12:3–11

EXPLAIN

The truth of Hebrews 12:6

Discipline hurts, doesn't it? When God disciplined Solomon, it brought great trouble to Solomon and to all Israel. But discipline is also a good thing. First, it shows that God is faithful (2 Sam 7:14). Second, it shows that God is loving. If you are God's child, God disciplines you because He loves you (Heb 12:6). But why would God cause pain to someone He loves? Is it because He is condemning you for your sin? No, because all your sins—past, present, and future—are already forgiven (Rom 8:1). Then why does He discipline? First, God disciplines the one He loves in order to correct. He allows straying believers to experience hardship in order to draw them back to Himself. Second, God disciplines His children in order to prevent future sin—like Paul's "thorn in the flesh" that kept him from exalting himself (2 Cor 12:7). Third, God teaches His children through discipline, using hardships to deepen their faith and reveal His character, as He did with Job. Be thankful that God is a true Father, who disciplines you because He loves you.

ASK

1. Who does God discipline?
Those He loves.
2. Why does God discipline believers?
To correct sin, prevent sin, and teach believers.
3. Is God's discipline of believers the same as His punishment of unbelievers?
No. There is no condemnation for those who have trusted Jesus for salvation.

DISCUSS

1. Parents: How consistent have you been to discipline your children? What does this show about your love for them? Do your children know you love them in the midst of discipline?
2. Children: Is discipline enjoyable? Can you explain why it is good even though it is painful?

NEXT WEEK

God punishes Jeroboam

1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18

