

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL

Getting to Know King Solomon

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL DAY ONE

SCRIPTURE STUDY

1 Kings 3:5-15
1 Samuel 16: 12-13
2 Samuel 2:4; 5:3
2 Samuel 12:24
Proverbs 4:3-4
1 Samuel 13:14
1 Chronicles 28:6-10

DIGGING DEEPER

The Hebrew term *chokmah*, or *wisdom*, is used more than 200 times in Scripture. In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is often described as both a gift from God and as a treasure to pursue (2:6; 4:5).

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
“Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me” (Psalm 119:105 LB). As I read this devotional, please shine your light on the words and Scriptures that I need to focus on today.
Amen.



THE WISEST MAN IN HISTORY

Solomon, the son of King David, is best known for his God-given wisdom. He is also the author of three of the Bible’s sixty-six books and two psalms. He brought Israel into its golden age—the nation was wealthy, populous, and contented for 40 years during his reign.

We benefit from Solomon’s wisdom in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In his writings, he drew on his many experiences. Solomon was:

- King of the warrior nation of Israel
- Overseer of the building of God’s Temple
- An architect
- A botanist and zoologist
- The host for emissaries from all nations who traveled to Jerusalem just to meet him
- A man with 700 wives, 300 concubines, and many sons and daughters
- A man of God

But his true source of wisdom *was* God. When God offered him anything he could ask for, Solomon requested wisdom rather than riches. God was so pleased by the request that He granted Solomon incredible wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-15). Sadly, in spite of his wisdom, Solomon never fully trusted God. His poor choices and disobedience eventually cost his family the kingdom.

Solomon, with all his wisdom and day-to-day life experiences, gave us writings that inspire, encourage, and instruct in all aspects of life. This devotional will consider his life as revealed in his writings, providing background information that will help you as you study Proverbs.

FROM THE HEART OF A KING

My name is Solomon, and I am only one of four people in the Bible to have been named by God. [NOTE: The others are Adam, John (the Baptist), and Jesus]. I was the third king of Israel. My mother was Bathsheba, and my father was King David. I was born in the large city of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and I lived there all my life.

I had three older brothers and one sister, but only Adonijah was still living when I became king (1 Kings 1:5). [NOTE: David had more than seven wives, so Solomon probably had more siblings. However, only four sons and one daughter are mentioned in the Bible.]

Living in the large family with all those stepmothers, stepbrothers, and stepsisters was quite a challenge! My brother Absalom killed my half-brother Amnon because he raped my sister, Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-29). Then, my brother Absalom was killed because he wanted to be king while my father was still king and rebelled against him (2 Samuel 18:1-18).

- Solomon was the child of a king. And you are the child of *the* King! How does that make you feel?

- What was your family of origin like compared to Solomon's? Thinking more deeply, how have your childhood experiences affected your relationships today?

- What legacies did you inherit in your family? As you answer, think of the positive and negative, the physical and spiritual.

- What legacy will you leave your family in these areas?

BELOVED OF JEHOVAH

Because of God's interest in me, Nathan the prophet gave me the nickname *Jedidiah*, which means "Beloved of Jehovah" (2 Samuel 12:24 LB). My brothers and stepbrothers were always teasing me because my name meant "peace." They kept picking fights with me, but I really did not want to fight because they were bigger than I was! I liked my nickname—"Beloved of Jehovah"—but that's what gave me the most trouble. Did God love me more than He loved them? They hated me because of my name.

- Did you or do you have a nickname? What is it? Where did you get it? Does it represent something about you? If so, what?

- Do you think God has a nickname for you? Why, or why not?

- If not, what nickname would you like Him to give you? Write it here _____.

My mother treated me like I was her only son (Proverbs 4:3 AMP). When I was about ten years old, my mother started telling me that I had been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel. She told me over and over again not to tell others because they might try to kill me. I did not tell anyone, but I don't know if others knew or not.

Though my father was very old when I was a child (1 Kings 1:1), he taught me about God's love for me (Proverbs 4:3-4). He loved God very much, and he told me that he always tried to obey God (1 Samuel 13:14 LB). And he encouraged me to always obey God. I loved spending time with my father. He gave me a wonderful blessing when I was twelve.

(God) has told me, 'Your son Solomon shall build my temple; for I have chosen him as my son and I will be his father. And if he continues to obey my commandments and instructions as he has until now, I will make his kingdom last forever.' Then David turned to Solomon and said: 'Here before the leaders of Israel, the people of God, and in the sight of our God, I am instructing you to search out every commandment of the Lord so that you may continue to rule this good land and leave it to your children to rule forever. Solomon, my son, get to know the God of your fathers. Worship and serve him with a clean heart and a willing mind, for the Lord sees every heart and understands and knows every thought. If you seek him, you will find him; but if you forsake him, he will permanently throw you aside. So be very careful, for the Lord has chosen you to build his holy temple. Be strong and do as he commands. (1 Chronicles 28:6-10 LB)

- Was your dad in your life when you were a child? If not, do you think that has affected your relationship with God? In what ways?
- Did your mother have a "favorite" in your family? Who was it? In what ways did she treat him or her (or you) differently? How did that make you feel?
- Is it hard for you to treat your children equally? Why, or why not? Put yourself in their shoes. Do you think they notice the favoritism? How might they feel about it?
- Have you been given a blessing by your parents? What was it? What did it mean to you?
- Have you given one to your child (ren)? What did you say? How did they respond?

My childhood, other than being the son of King David, was spent growing and learning, and just being a child. All of that changed suddenly when my brother decided he wanted to become king. I tell you all about that on Day Two. What did you say? How did they respond?

APPLYING THE TRUTH

Read Proverbs 6:20-22; 13:1; 15:5, 20; 17:6, 21, 25; 19:26; 20:7, 20; 23:15-17, 22, 25; 28:7; 29:3, 17.

In the area below, write out the Scripture(s), thought(s), and question(s) from today's devotional that you want to spend more time thinking about. What will you apply to your life? What will you apply to your life?