

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 3 :: The Divided Kingdom

Treasure Story: 1 Kings 12

The last thing you would expect the wisest man in the world to do is to get in trouble with a woman. Yet for all his wisdom, that is exactly what Solomon did—only it wasn't a woman but a thousand women. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 mistresses. God had spoken of the dangers of this disobedience, but Solomon ignored God's Word and followed after the idolatry and pagan practices of his women.

Connect

"How strange that Solomon, in his old age, should be ensnared with fleshly lusts, youthful lusts. As we must never presume upon the strength of our resolutions, so neither upon the weakness of our corruptions, so as to be secure and off our guard."

– Matthew Henry on 1 Kings 11

No matter how wise or how strong we think we are, we are no match for sin when we disobey God. It is shocking to think that wise Solomon would abandon the worship of God for pagan idols. This is, however, what results from trusting in yourself instead of trusting in the Lord. Here are a few suggestions for setting boundaries that will keep you and your children from sinning against God:

- **Run Away:** Help your children understand that they are no match for sin. Explain to them that Jesus had to come and die on the cross so that we would not be overcome with sin and evil. Whenever your children are tempted to sin, encourage them to physically run, if possible, to find you and get you to pray with them.
- **Jesus Wouldn't Ask Me to Do That:** Sometimes it's hard for a child to know what is the right thing to do. Read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) with them so that they learn how Jesus thinks and acts. Then give them this rule. Whenever they are unsure about something, tell them to ask themselves whether or not Jesus would ask them to do it.

My Mission As Parent

- It can be easy to assume that you know the right way, but how often do you seek accountability in God's Word and with other believers?
- What safeguards have you put in place to check you and keep you from falling into sin like Solomon?
- When you do catch yourself sinning, it is important to seek repentance and involve your children in your repentance, when possible, so that they can see its vital importance.

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to help you recognize the subtlety of disobedience and sin.
- Pray for the Lord to help you put safeguards in your heart and life to check you and help you to seek repentance.
- Praise the Lord together with your children that God has provided us a way to find repentance through the grace and mercy of Jesus.