

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 11

I Kings

Objects to have:

Your sign reading: I KINGS

King Solomon and Other Kings

A sheet of poster paper with two horizontal paths drawn on it. Label the top path HAPPY and the bottom path SAD. You might draw a happy face beside the word HAPPY and a sad face beside the word SAD.

A thread, fastened to the left side of the top path, fastened again about 1/10th of the way on the top path, fastened again below that point onto the bottom path, and fastened again to the end of the bottom path.

A picture of something to represent King Solomon: a picture of a king or a picture of a crown, etc. Have a paper clip fastened to this picture.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Repeat with the children the first books of the Old Testament through II Samuel. Review briefly about Samuel, Saul and David as follows.)

Hannah prayed for a baby boy and named him Samuel. Samuel grew to be a man, and he became a prophet—a preacher—for God.

Samuel had many things to do for God. One special thing was that he was to choose a king for the Israelites. He chose King Saul. King Saul stopped trusting God, and he could not be king any longer. God told Samuel to choose a new king; God told Samuel to choose David to be the new king. After a few years David became the new king.

The next book in the Bible is called First Kings. In First Kings we learn that King David had grown to be a very old man, and it was time for him to die. King David talked to his son Solomon. King David said, “Solomon, you be a strong man. Let everybody see that you are a man by keeping all the rules of God. Always trust God; walk in His ways.” Solomon listened to his father David, and Solomon decided that he would always obey God. King David died and went to Heaven; he had trusted Jesus as his Saviour, so he could go to Heaven when he died. Solomon became the new king.

First Kings is a book about King Solomon and other kings. Remember: King Solomon was the son of King David.

Telling the story:

(While telling the story, you will fasten with the paper clip the picture that represents King Solomon to the thread that runs along the happy path and then along the sad path, as the events in his life change.)

See this picture. (Hold up your representation of King Solomon.) This makes me think of King Solomon. King Solomon trusted God. King Solomon wanted to do a good job as the new king. (Place your picture on the path labeled HAPPY.) See the word HAPPY and see this happy face. That’s how King Solomon felt because he was doing right. King Solomon prayed, “Dear Lord, please help me to know how to do this new job that You have given me. Please give me wisdom. All I ask of You is that I have wisdom from You. I cannot do anything right all by myself; I need Your help.” God was pleased with Solomon’s prayer.

How happy King Solomon was because God was pleased with him! God gave King Solomon wisdom.

Then God said, “Solomon, because you have prayed for wisdom and because you have not asked for money or lots of nice clothes or lots of other nice things, I want to give you riches.” God made Solomon the richest man in all the world!

See, Solomon was happy because he was close to God. He prayed every day and many times a day. He wanted to do what God wanted him to do.

Then King Solomon decided that there was some very important work that needed to be done. The place where the people went to hear the Bible preached and to pray was still the tent with boards for walls. On the inside the tent was very pretty; on the outside the tent was ugly. This tent was called the tabernacle. King Solomon thought, “God deserves better than this. God needs a beautiful building. I need to build a temple for Him.” See how happy King Solomon was as he set about doing this important work for God. (Point to the HAPPY picture.)

King Solomon had a meeting of some important people of Israel. He told them how big the temple was to be. He told them what furniture was to go into the temple. King Solomon was busy. He was happy. He was doing a job that God wanted him to do.

King Solomon then decided that he himself needed a fancy house. The building of the temple was not so important to him as it had been. While men built the temple, King Solomon had a house built for himself. King Solomon thought that it would add to his happiness to have a beautiful house for himself. But, look what happened to him. (Move the picture halfway between the HAPPY path and the SAD path.) King Solomon was not as happy as he had been. When people start to think of themselves too much, they are not as happy as they could be. King Solomon started thinking of himself and what he wanted instead of what God wanted. He was not happy.

So, because he was not happy, King Solomon began looking for happiness. He decided to go looking for happiness in a country outside his own land. The country where he went was the same country that had been very bad to God’s people. (Move Solomon onto the path marked SAD.) The people of this country did not love God. King Solomon went to this country that did not love God. See, he got off the path called HAPPY. In this wicked country he saw a young lady whom he liked very much. He married the young lady who did not love God. I wonder if King Solomon will ever get back on the path named HAPPY.

Let’s watch to see where he goes now. (Move your picture further along the path called SAD.) The temple was finished, and his house was finished. He was sitting on his throne in his house. A queen from another country came to visit him. She told King Solomon that he was wonderful. King Solomon thought that this was making him happy, but it was not.

King Solomon was thinking only of himself. He stopped thinking of others. Most of all he stopped thinking about God; he was no longer interested in doing what would please God. (Put the picture farther on the path marked SAD.)

Think about King Solomon. He was definitely on this path named SAD. King Solomon did not know what was wrong with him. He just knew that things were not right any longer. He was unhappy. “Well,” he thought, “Maybe I should have more than one wife. I will marry another wife.” Oh, my, Solomon really was on the wrong track! God has commanded that a man or a lady have only one wife or one husband. Solomon still was not happy. He married another lady. He still was sad. He married another lady and another and another. King Solomon was still sad. King Solomon married so many women that it would take us too long to count them.

King Solomon saw his wives and other people bowing down to statues. They were praying to these statues. He thought, "Maybe they are finding happiness by praying to these other gods. I will start to do that, too." That is what King Solomon did! He went to the statue of a god. He bowed down in front of it. He folded his hands. He talked out loud to that statue, praying to it! When King Solomon got up from praying to that statue, he was not any happier than he had been before. By now, however, he did not want to do what God wanted him to do. King Solomon was on the path named SAD.

And God saw! God saw what King Solomon was doing! God had told King Solomon how to be a good king. Then King Solomon became a bad king. King Solomon could not be HAPPY while he was doing wrong.

God was angry with King Solomon. God scolded King Solomon, "King Solomon, you have not done right. I have to punish you. I am going to let some people be your enemies and be against you. They will try to kill you. They will try to take the kingdom away from you. You have been bad, Solomon. You have done wickedly." This made King Solomon more sad than ever. King Solomon deserved the punishment that God was giving him. See how his life ended. (Move to the end of the SAD path the picture that represents King Solomon.) King Solomon never again had the happiness that he had when he first became king because he had turned so far away from God's ways.

People are never happy when they do wrong. People are contented and happy when they are doing right. Our story from I Kings shows us that the way to be happy is to obey God and to work for God. The way to be sad is to disobey God, and to think only of ourselves.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I Kings 11:9, "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice."

(If you have time, teacher, review these first 11 books of the Old Testament and drill with the children the theme for each book.)