

E31. Solomon Turns from the Lord

1 Kings 11:1-13; 41-43

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore what happened when Solomon put other gods before the one true God.
2. The children will examine and recognize the influence that friends can have on our lives, both good and bad.

Memory Verse: *"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."
--Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

Grades K-2

"What Comes First?" Activity Sheet

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → "What Comes First"

You will need to print out one activity sheet for each child. The children will decide which picture comes first in each of four scenarios. After you have finished the activity, tell the children in today's lesson we will learn more about Solomon and how made some choices that did not make God so happy.

Grades 3-5

My Friends" Activity Sheet

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → Wisdom from Proverbs → "Friends to Keep" (As Kids Arrive)

You will need to print out one sheet for each child or make your own. The children will list their friends and then choose from a list of words good qualities about their friend. When everyone is finished, collect the papers to use later in the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Choose your friends wisely.*

Solomon's Wives Turn Him Away From the Lord

King Solomon had many wives that he loved, many who were from other nations. The Lord had warned Israel about women from other nations. He had said, "You must not get married to them. If you do, you can be sure they will turn your hearts toward their gods."

But Solomon continued to love them anyway. He wouldn't give them up. He had many many wives who came from royal families. His wives led him down the wrong path.

As Solomon grew older, his wives turned his heart toward other gods. He didn't follow the Lord his God with all his heart. So he wasn't like his father David. Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth. Ashtoreth was the goddess of the people of Sidon. He also worshiped Molech. Molech was the god of the people of Ammon. The Lord hated that god.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He didn't follow the Lord completely. He didn't do what his father David had done.

There is a hill east of Jerusalem. Solomon built a high place for worshiping Chemosh there. He built a high place for worshiping Molech there too. Chemosh was the god of Moab. Molech was the god of Ammon. The Lord hated both of those gods.

Solomon also built high places so that all of his wives from other nations could worship their gods. Those women burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

The Lord became angry with Solomon. That's because his heart had turned away from the Lord. He is the God of Israel. He had appeared to Solomon twice. He had commanded Solomon not to follow other gods. But Solomon didn't obey him. So the Lord said to Solomon, "You have chosen not to keep my covenant. You have decided not to obey my rules. I commanded you to do what I told you. But you did not do it. So you can be absolutely sure I will tear the kingdom away from you. I will give it to one of your officials. But I will not do that while you are still living. Because of your father David I will wait. I will tear the kingdom out of your son's hand. But I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give him one of the tribes because of my servant David. I will also do it because of Jerusalem. That is the city I have chosen."

1 Kings 11:41-43 ~ Solomon Dies

The other events of Solomon's rule are written down. Everything he did and the wisdom he showed are written down. They are written in the official records of Solomon. Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over the whole nation of Israel for 40 years. Then he joined the members of his family who had already died. His body was buried in the city of his father David. Solomon's son Rehoboam became the next king after him.

Discussion Questions:

1. When King Solomon grew old, how did his wives get him into trouble with God? *(They turned his heart to worship other Gods.)*
2. What did King Solomon do wrong in the eyes of God? *(He put other gods before the one true God.)*
3. Did King Solomon keep God's commandment? *(No. He chose to please the people instead of God.)*
4. What commandment did Solomon 'break'? Recite it. *(The first commandment. I am the Lord your God. You shall have NO other gods before Me.)*
5. What do you think this commandment means? *(Discuss together. Make a list of things that we might put before God in our lives.)*
6. What was the consequence for Solomon since he chose to disobey God? *(God told King Solomon that He would take away the kingdom and give it to someone else.)*
7. How do you think God feels when we do not follow His commandment? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*

Application to Real Life

Use the following verses from Proverbs to discover what the Bible tells us about friends. You can all take a different verse (if so, write the verse the child is looking for on an index card) or you may race to find the verses together.

1. Proverbs 12:26 – What should we do when we are trying to find a friend?
2. Proverbs 13:20 – What happens to us when someone is not a good influence on us?
3. Proverbs 14:22 – What do you get when a person does good things?
4. Proverbs 18:24 – How can you tell if you have a real friend?
5. Proverbs 15:3 – Why do you have to be careful of your behavior as a friend to others?

Remind the children that we all have friends from all different places. The big questions for us to consider are: 1. Who are my friends? AND 2. What kind of influence do we have on each other? We want our friends to be a good role model in our lives, because if they are not, we may be led down a path that is not pleasing to God, just as Solomon was led by his “friends”. Choose your friends wisely. (Remind the children of the message statement and memory verse.)

If you have students in grades 4-5, you may also choose to look up the following verses to see what behaviors we can find in friends that are not a good influence on our lives: Proverbs 12:2; 12:20; 16:28; 22:24-25

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse. Then explain what it means in your own words.
2. Retell the story of David and Goliath.
3. What is the name of the Holy Sacrament we participate in during every divine service?
4. Ask a volunteer to say a short closing prayer, thanking God for being with us.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

“Friend or Foe” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Friend or Foe”

You will need two chairs, rope, several volunteers, and several flashlights for this activity. You will also need your Bibles to look up Matthew 7:13-14. Please see the website above for detailed instructions. The demonstration will show the children that friends can have a large influence on our lives, and they often help determine the path we choose. Good friends will help us to stay close to God.

Grades K-2

“First Things First” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Object Talks → “First Things First”

You will need to print out the picture of Jesus before class. You will also need various items such as toys, music, sports equipment, dolls, etc. to use for this object talk. You will use the picture of Jesus and instruct the children to keep their eyes on it while you continue to distract them with the other items from your hidden box, which will become more and more difficult. Please refer to the website above for detailed instructions.

Activity Ideas - continued

Choose One

“Friends Rub Off” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Friends Rub Off”

You will need to print out the activity sheet and cut out one “Friends Rub Off” card for each child. The children will use a pencil and a cotton ball to demonstrate how our friends can have a big impact on the way we act – either good or bad. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades 3-5

“Friends” Skit

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → “Friends”

This skit will need to be performed by volunteers. Then as a group, you will analyze what happened between the friends. This activity is more appropriate for the older primary students.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of you with a friend. What do you love about your friend? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Who are your closest friends? What kind of influence do they have on you? Is it good or not? Write about it.

Why do you think we have to be so careful when we choose our friends? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown-up **Review**.
- Learn the memory verse: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true.”*
--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Review** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What is your favorite Bible story? What book of the Bible is it found in? Write it down and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “Solomon Turns from the Lord”

Name: _____

Review



What is your favorite Bible story?

Write it down or draw a picture in the space below:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true."

--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)



Take Home Page: E31. Solomon Turns from the Lord

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **choose our friends wisely**. The children explored what happened when Solomon chose to put other gods before the one true God. They also talked about the influence that friends can have on our lives, both good and bad.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me." --Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What did Solomon do that started to get him in "trouble?"
2. Which commandment did Solomon not follow? Can you recite it?
3. How do you think God feels when we choose not to follow his commandments?

Live Your Faith...

Make a list together of all your favorite things, or the things (or people) that you love. Your child could also draw pictures instead of writing the words. When you finish the list, write "GOD" on the top of the paper, above all the other things. Remind your child of the first commandment: "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other Gods before more." Talk about how God wants to be first on our list and in our hearts. Pray together and ask God to help you to follow this important commandment and keep Him first.

