

General Church Education



Solomon Becomes King

1 Kings 2:1-34

Lesson 2

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Solomon Becomes King

1 Kings 2:1-34

Teacher Background

This lesson is about the events that occurred near the end of king David's life. Usually, a king's eldest son was his heir. However, in this case, Solomon, a younger son, was chosen to be King David's successor. At the beginning of Solomon's reign and throughout the time that he built the temple he displayed the attributes of a righteous leader. He appeared to want to follow the Lord and built a beautiful temple. He was intelligent, strong, kind, courageous and honest. Consequently, he had wealth, health, power and honor among other nations and constructed amazing buildings in Jerusalem. Yet, these riches and honors did not help Solomon remain a righteous person, and as his reign progressed, he turned away from the Lord.

We sometimes provide incentives or rewards to help children act in orderly and responsible ways. This is appropriate. However, it is not enough for a person to simply do things for these reasons. At some point, everyone needs to act rightly because they are right, because it helps others, and because it brings others joy.

Focus Points

- As David turned away from the Lord his sons Absalom and Absalom plotted against him.
- The Lord appointed Solomon the next king.
- Solomon was a righteous leader who avenged his father.

Readings from the Writings

"A regulated state of affairs cannot be maintained in the world without people in authority, who must take note of every occurrence that accords with true order or contravenes it. They must reward those whose lives accord with true order and punish those whose lives contravene it." *Arcana Coelestia* 10790

"To love and to do truth for the sake of truth, and good for the sake of good, is to have affection for truth and good for their sake, and not for the sake of one's own reputation, honor, or gain. Such affection of truth and good is a truly spiritual affection; but the affection of truth and good for the sake of one's own reputation, honor, or gain, is a merely natural affection. And as those who love truth and good for the sake of truth and good, or because they are truth and good, are in the spiritual affection of truth and good, therefore it is said that they shall receive 'a prophet's Reward' and 'a righteous one's reward;' which means that they are in the spiritual affection of truth and good, and this affection has reward in itself, because it has heaven in itself." *Apocalypse Explained* 102.7

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever.” (1 Kings 2:45)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Match the Person with the Description or Action

Match the name of a person on the left with an action or description on the right.

Adonijah Story Line

Review the story of Adonijah (1 Kings 2:1-34). Decide how Adonijah might have felt at each point in the story, and draw a line up and down from left to right to show how Adonijah’s feelings changed during the story. When you have finished with Adonijah, choose another color and draw a line to show how Solomon might have felt. Label each line with the person’s name.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. The lines for Saul and David are completed for you as an example. Many of the attributes noted concern whether a king is righteous or not. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Play: Solomon Becomes King

A script for acting out the story of Solomon being anointed king of Israel. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/play-solomon-becomes-king-1-kings-1.pdf>

Signs of Righteousness

An activity that examines the actions people do that show they are righteous. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-signs-of-righteousness-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

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Vocabulary

vacillate—go back and forth between different opinions or actions

treason—the crime of betraying your country

treachery—betrayal or disloyalty

David Turns Away from the Lord

The Lord chose David to rule Israel. David began as a hero, slaying Goliath, enlarging the kingdom and, most importantly, leading the people according to the Lord's commandments. But as time went on, David seemed to vacillate between following the Lord and doing what he felt like doing. He be-

came so selfish that he caused a man to die because he wanted the man's wife, Bathsheba, for himself.

David not only made poor choices but overlooked his sons' bad choices too. For example, he ignored the situation when his son, Amnon, violated his half-sister Tamar. Then he forgave his son Absalom for killing Amnon. So, although he continued to have many successes, David also experienced difficulties, including treason and rebellion from two of his sons.

Absalom Commits Treason

In spite of his father's forgiveness, Absalom decided he wanted the throne. So he stood at the gates to Jerusalem and told lies so that people would think David was a poor leader and that Absalom would be a better king. Then Absalom left the city and continued to plot against David. He even gathered some of David's officials to join forces with him. Eventually, David's armies fought against Absalom's followers, and Joab, the captain of David's army,



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killed Absalom. David mourned for Absalom, seeming to ignore his treasonous acts.

Adonijah Plots Against David

When David was old, his son Adonijah decided he should be king. He thought his father was too weak to protest and gathered people together to proclaim himself king. His supporters included Joab, the captain of David's army, and Abiathar the priest. The prophet Nathan saw what Adonijah had done and went to Bathsheba to tell her what was happening. On Nathan's advice, Bathsheba reminded David of his promise that their son Solomon would inherit the throne. As Bathsheba spoke with David, Nathan joined them and asked David if he intended Adonijah to be king. Since this David did not want this, he decided to have Solomon proclaimed king.

Solomon Is Anointed King

David called Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, a commander of the army. He told them to put Solomon on a mule, travel to Gihon, and anoint him king. Afterwards the people called out,

"Long live King Solomon!" (1 Kings 1:39)



Then they followed Solomon as he rode towards Jerusalem. They played flutes and rejoiced. Might they have known Solomon would be a better king? Or, might they have feared supporting Adonijah? When Adonijah heard about it, he was afraid and grabbed the horns of the altar, where no one could harm him.

When Solomon heard about Adonijah, he did not have him killed, but said,

"If he proves a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." (1 Kings 1:52)

When Adonijah came to Solomon, he fell down before him, showing his desire to follow Solomon as king and Solomon sent him back to his home.

David Instructs Solomon

When David knew he would die he called for Solomon. He reminded him about keeping the covenant with the Lord:

"Keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His

statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you may turn; that the Lord may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart, and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel’” (1 Kings 2:3, 4).

Then David taught him which enemies should be killed, and who should be spared. After this, David died and was buried in Jerusalem.

Solomon Executes Adonijah

After David’s death, Solomon’s leadership was tested almost immediately. While he had spared Adonijah, Adonijah asked Bathsheba to speak to Solomon about Abishag, a woman he wanted for his wife.

Abishag was a beautiful young woman who took care of David when he was old. She had become Solomon’s servant. The Word does not tell us why Adonijah wanted to marry Abishag. However, Solomon saw this request as evidence of Adonijah’s treachery. So he had the captain of his army, Benaiah, find Adonijah and kill him.

After this, Solomon sought out people who had opposed his father. He removed Abiathar the priest. When Joab heard about this he grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. However, he was killed because he had killed innocent men. Another man who had joined Absalom in his treason, Shimei, was also put to death for disobeying Solomon’s command to stay at home.

A Righteous Leader

As you learn about Solomon’s reign, and those of the kings that follow him, you will be asked to identify their signs of righteousness. Qualities that make someone a righteous leader are honesty, intelligence, strength, courage, kindness, and a desire to follow the Lord. When Israel kept the Lord’s commandments, the kingdom had health, building projects, wealth, many children, power among surrounding nations, and success in battle. These successes are called signs of righteousness—signs that the leader and/or the people are following the Lord.

Righteous Leaders in Our Lives

When we are young, the most important leaders in our lives are our parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers and priests. When these adults impose consequences due to your bad choices, you might feel guilt and/or sadness. On the other hand, when you make good choices, many blessings may come your way—kind words, true friendships, and a sense of peace and accomplishment given to you by the Lord.



David Promises Bathsheba Solomon Will Be King

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever. (1 Kings 2:45)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Match the Person with the Description or Action

Match the name of a person on the left with an action or description on the right.

Adonijah Story Line

Review the story of Adonijah (1 Kings 2:1-34). Decide how Adonijah might have felt at each point in the story, and draw a line up and down from left to right to show how Adonijah's feelings changed during the story. When you have finished with Adonijah, choose another color and draw a line to show how Solomon might have felt. Label each line with the person's name.

Match the Person with the Description or Action

1 Kings 2:1-34

Match the name of a person on the left with an action or description on the right. Write the number next to the person's name on the line in front of the action or description. There may be more than one action or description for some of the names.

Person	Action or Description
1. David	___ Girl who served David and Solomon
2. Solomon	___ King whose sons rebelled against him ___ Wife of King David
3. Bathsheba	___ Person who stood at the gates saying bad things about David
4. Absalom	___ Priest who supported one of David's sons as king ___ Prophet of the Lord who supported David and Solomon
5. Adonijah	___ Son of David whom David had anointed as the new king ___ Captain of David's army who left David to follow another
6. Nathan	___ Priest who stayed with David during his sons' treason ___ Mother of Solomon
7. Joab	___ Son of David who declared himself king
8. Abiathar	___ Person who avenged his father after his father's death ___ Person who cared for David when he was sick and dying
9. Zadok	___ Person who wanted Abishag as wife
10. Abishag	___ Person who gave Solomon advice about being a good king

Adonijah Story Line Review the story of Adonijah. Decide how Adonijah might have felt at each point in the story. Draw a line up and down from left to right to show how Adonijah's feelings changed during the story. When you have finished Adonijah, draw a line in another color to show how Solomon might have felt. Label each line with the person's name.

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Answers

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Match the Person with the Description or Action

Person	Action or Description
1. David	10 Servant girl to David and Solomon
2. Solomon	1 King whose sons rebelled against him
3. Bathsheba	3 Wife of King David
4. Absalom	5 Person who stood at the gates saying bad things about David
5. Adonijah	8 Priest who supported one of David's sons as king
6. Nathan	8 Prophet of the Lord who supported David and Solomon
7. Joab	2 Son of David whom David had anointed as the new king
8. Abiathar	7 Captain of David's army who left David to follow another
9. Zadok	9 Priest who stayed with David during his sons' treason
10. Abishag	3 Mother of Solomon
	4 Son of David who declared himself king
	2 Person who avenged his father after his father's death
	10 Person who cared for David when he was sick and dying
	5 Person who wanted Abishag as wife
	1 Person who gave Solomon advice about being a good king