

# Solomon's Last Years

1 Kings 11:1-13

## Teacher Preparation

Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-16-solomons-last-years.pdf>

## Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

## Read and Discuss

1. Ask the kids what they remember about King Solomon—what were the things that he is most famous for? (wealth, wisdom, number of wives) Remember how Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom and as a bonus the Lord gave him peace, fame and wealth too? His land was not at war while he reigned; many people came to him for advice since everyone knew that he was so wise, and he was very wealthy. Do you think he stayed very wise and good for his whole life?
2. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13. As you can see, Solomon didn't seem to be as wise or good in his later years. Did you hear what one of his worst sins at this time was? (worshipping idols) Do you know why he started to worship idols? (because some of his foreign wives did) Do you think that was a good idea?
3. King Solomon actually had 100s of wives! It seems hard to believe, but back in those days that was acceptable, and not against the laws or the Lord's rules. But the Lord did say that they weren't supposed to marry someone who was a nation that worshipped idols. Unfortunately some of Solomon's wives were from idolatrous nations. Instead of asking them to change to the Jewish way of worshiping, Solomon changed to be like them. He built altars to idols, and worshipped them. Do you remember which commandment says that we shouldn't worship idols? (first) So do you think that was an important commandment?!
4. Part of Solomon's problem was that he was the most powerful man in the whole land. He may have thought that he could do whatever he wanted to do—who would stop him? Unfortunately, it is often true that when a person has power, it's harder to stay humble than if you're a regular person. There are lots of examples in real life (in the news) of people who are rich and famous, but do bad things. (Discuss?) Even though Solomon was a powerful king, he should have remembered that the Lord was still the boss of him—but he seems to have forgotten.
5. The other problem was that Solomon became distracted by his wives. He liked them, and he wanted to have fun with them, so he did things their way instead of the right way. Do you think that sometimes we all fall into the trap of getting distracted from doing what the Lord asks us to do, or remembering to make time for the Lord in our daily lives? The Lord says that we should remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy—do we always take the time to do that? We are told that we should read from the Word every day and pray once or twice every day. Do we always make time for that, or do we all have excuses why we “don't have time”?

## Activities and Project (see next page)

## Activities and Project

1. We all need to make the Lord a big enough part of our lives so that we don't ever forget about Him. We're going to do a little project that hopefully shows what our hearts are like when we make the Lord a big part of it.
2. Do the woven heart activity. Tell them that the hearts are red and white because those are the Lord's colours: white for truth/wisdom and red for good/love. Let's make sure that our hearts have the Lord's love and wisdom in them every day, for the rest of our lives, and not forget Him as Solomon did.
3. They can do the maze worksheet if they have time/want to.

## Supplies You Will Need

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of pictures illustrating the story from: [https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet\\_images/jpg/11/11\\_1Ki\\_11\\_02\\_RG.jpg](https://filedn.com/ID0GfuMvTstXgqaJfpLL87S/sweet_images/jpg/11/11_1Ki_11_02_RG.jpg)
- Heart patterns and pieces of red and white paper; find directions at: <https://www.auntannie.com/Valentines/HeartBasket/>
- Scissors
- Mazes—print out from: <https://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/israels-first-king.php>