

# 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

1. Have each student fill out a “Time Stealer” worksheet—colouring in the blocks appropriately with coloured markers. (They can pick any day of the week they want, but probably not a holiday or unusual day.)
2. Don’t take too long with it, but get a rough idea of how their time is being spent. Talk about how perhaps everyone should try a little harder to make time for the Lord in their lives, and not allow distractions to get in the way. Perhaps come up with some concrete ideas for ways to incorporate worship into their routines, e.g. setting aside 15 minutes to read the Word each night before they go to bed; finding time to say a quiet (or aloud!) prayer at the beginning and/or end of each day; think about memorizing verses from the Word to keep the Lord in their hearts all the time, etc.
3. They can do the word search if they have time/want to.
4. Before they leave, let each student choose one “pithy quote” card to take home as a reminder to make time for the Lord in their own daily lives.

## 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)
- Time Stealers Worksheet (see p. 3)
- Markers and pencils
- Print out of King Solomon word search found at: [https://wordmint.com/public\\_puzzles/179947](https://wordmint.com/public_puzzles/179947)
- Quote cards, cut out individually (see p. 4)

# TIME STEALERS

Color the squares that take our time:

|                         | 7 AM | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 PM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-------------------------|------|---|---|----|----|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| one day in our lives    |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| eating                  |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| music                   |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| TV                      |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| games                   |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| after-school activities |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| piano                   |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| computer/ phone         |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| school                  |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| friends                 |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| family                  |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| reading the Word        |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| worship                 |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| prayer                  |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|                         |      |   |   |    |    |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |

1. How much time do we spend eating?
2. How much time do we spend doing or watching sports?
3. How much time do we spend with the Lord each day?
4. Are there times that we can spend more time reading the Word, praying, or memorizing verses from the Word?

***Psalm 1:2***

But his delight is in the law of the **LORD**,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

***Matthew 6:33***

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

***Psalm 46:10***

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

***Psalm 119:9***

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

***Matthew 6:6***

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

***Revelation 3:20***

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.

***Psalm 91:1***

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

***Psalm 62:1***

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him.

***Joshua 1:8-9***

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night. Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the **LORD** your God is with you wherever you go."

***1 Samuel 12:24***

Only fear the **LORD** and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.