

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of 1 Kings 1-12

1. Solomon's reign is the culmination of centuries of waiting (480 years). What do you think the people felt with the coming of Solomon's reign and the peace and prosperity it brought along with it? For what blessings have you waited a long time for before God granted it? What are times when you have felt the same kinds of emotions that Israel felt at the coming peace during Solomon's reign?
2. Both the Temple and the Palace were massive projects that Solomon undertook during his reign. Pretend a congregation intends on launching a future building project. What are some lessons that 1 Kings 1-12 can teach us that might guide a congregation in a building project?
3. A teacher asked the class to make a list of things they pray for. They listed things such as:
 - "get good grades"
 - "don't get sick"
 - "have lots of friends"

The teacher commended the kids for their thoughtful list, but pointed out that their list was entirely about *results*. She encouraged them to pray for godly *qualities*, much like Solomon did when he asked for wisdom.

Be specific... how can our prayers follow a similar movement away from *results* and toward godly *qualities*?

4. Write your memory passage below:
5. At the dedication of the Temple Solomon gave a brief sermon (8:15-21), made a long prayer (8:23-53), and concluded with a benediction (8:56-61). Look for verses that might help answer the following questions:
 - What is Solomon's image of God?
 - What is Solomon's view of people?
 - What is important in man's relationship with God?
6. Be careful what you ask for! The people wanted a king... and now all the things that God had warned the people about concerning a king were coming true (1 Samuel 8:11-18). What are things that we may "ask for" (either in prayer or in the desires of our hearts) about which we ought to be careful what we ask for and receive?