

Series: Living the Dream.

Scripture and Background Information for March 07-13.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series: Living the Dream: The Power and Pitfalls of a God-Sized Life. While focusing, in our series, on Solomon's life, we will look today at **1 Kings 8:54-61**; we will see the impact of Solomon's life and work on the people God entrusted to him.

Background for 1Kings 8:54-61:

Today's passage builds the end of the account of Solomon's work, building the temple for God. In 1Kings 8:56-61, we find Solomon's blessing to the people of Israel. The previous verses show us that Solomon was commissioned by God and started building the temple. Many ordinary people regardless of status, used their skills to work and complete the temple. After the completion of the temple, they gathered together to worship God. Solomon dedicated the finished work of the people, the temple, to the use of worshipping God. At the end of the ceremony, he praises God for His faithfulness and blesses the worship service participants.

Some questions to engage with the text:

1. Solomon's blessing starts with the faithfulness of God toward his people. What are some of the characteristics Solomon mentions? How can his prayer motivate us to work for God?
2. The blessing of Solomon sees God as the primary actor for personal holiness. How does our personal holiness depend on God? Compare to John 15:1-5.
3. Solomon's blessing has a goal in mind. What is Solomon's goal for blessing God's people? What is the result or proposition of the blessing for God's people?
4. The text makes clear that people with a variety of skills and talents were instruments God used to bring about His glory through the temple? Describe some ways you have been blessed by the gifts and skills of others and experienced God's presence through them?

Note: All people of Israel gathered together to worship God. They did not only come to observe the temple but to participate in worshipping God. As they participated in the building of the temple, so they did in the worship of God. As Solomon's vocation as a leader was connected to God's worship, so were all the people of Israel's vocations. Their common vocation in life was useful for God's mission plan to reach the nations!

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

March 14-20

1. Kings 10:1-13

March 21-27

1. Kings 11:1-13

